■ Magazine / Q5
Bea Camacho: Harvard summa crochets herself into a cocoon for her thesis

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Serious water shortage in Central Luzon expected in 20 years

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Let's Cha-cha, not bicker, says Ramos

■ Lifestyle / H4
Cheche Lazaro writes about her cornea transplant

■ Metro / A17
HOM (Hands On Manila) is where the heart is

Unforgettable golf round bared Dy's year-long secret

By Tony S. Bergonia

IT WAS one round of golf that Faustino Dy Jr. and his golfing buddies—former Vicente Sotto III and Rep. Luis "Baby" Asistio—would never forget.

It was during the ninth-hole break at a newly opened Sun City golf course outside

UNFORGETTABLE / A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, July 31, 2005 ★★ 88 pages / 12 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 233 P18
website: www.inq7.net

Hotshot Erap PR cool to idea as Palace spokesman

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WILL HISTORY repeat itself?

What he may have failed to do for then President Joseph Estrada four years ago, public relations

HOTSHOT/ A8

BAKA NGAYON UMEPEK NA ANG P.R. MO!

Odds favor GMA survival

US bank says she's tougher than opposition expected

By Doris C. Dumlao

IF POLITICS were gambling, the odds are still largely in favor of embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo surviving the current political turbulence and completing her full six-year term, US investment bank Bear Stearns & Co. Inc. has predicted.

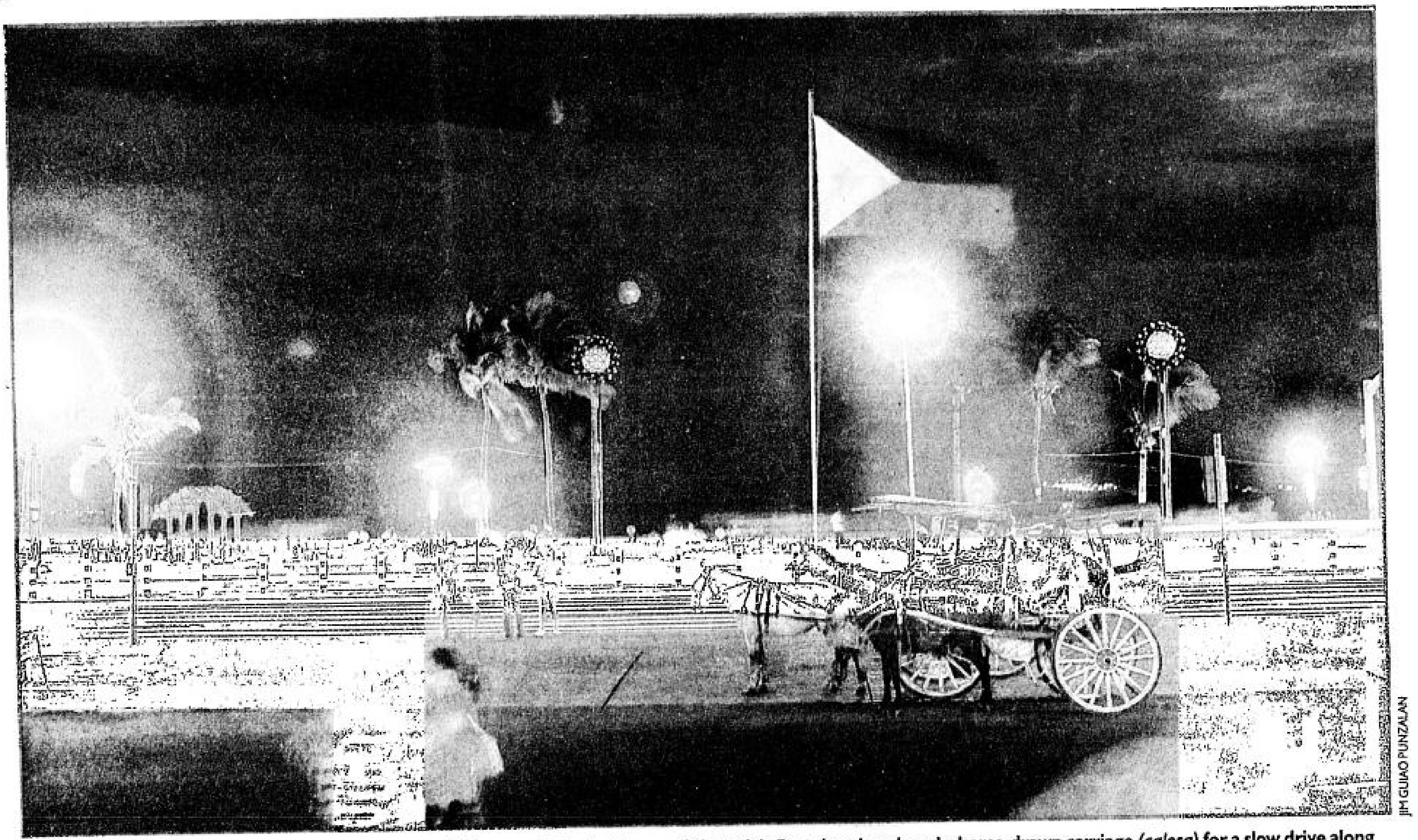
In a report dated July 22, Bear Stearns analyst John Stuermer said there was a 50-60 percent probability that Ms Arroyo would last until 2010, a slim 23-35 percent chance that she would be given a "graceful exit" via a charter change and a 15-20 percent likelihood she would be impeached by Congress.

The analyst also ruled out the President's removal from office via another people power uprising, given the decision of the military and the church to stay neutral.

While admitting that Ms Arroyo's remaining in office was not a strong case scenario, Stuermer noted that its likelihood was still stronger than the two alternative scenarios given the weakness of evidence implicating her.

If Ms Arroyo survives until Jan. 1, 2006, Stuermer predicted that her chances of remaining president would increase to 65-75 percent while the alternative impeachment and charter-change

ODDS FAVOR/ A6



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A KINDER, GENTLER CITY. In these days of fast food, fast-track, the fast lane and the quick-fix, take a break and a horse-drawn carriage *(calesa)* for a slow drive along Roxas Boulevard and other historic landmarks in the City of our Affections.

Mike Arroyo back today

By Tony Bergonia

A DEATH in the family is suddenly bringing back First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo home.

The controversial Arroyo, who left on "voluntary exile" for the United States on July 6 amid a political crisis buffeting the administration of his wife, President Macapagal-Arroyo, is scheduled to arrive at 4:30 p.m. today on a Cathay Pacific airlines flight from Hong Kong, an official at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport told the INQUIRER.

A source close to the First Gentleman said his decision to return home was prompted by the death of his half-sister, Rosario Tuason Matute-Llora, 71.

Llora was the daughter of Lourdes Tuason from her first marriage.

MIKE/ A8

GMA invokes rights; poll execs deny payoff

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Jerome Aning, Jun Malig and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

IN ANOTHER day of relentless media blitz, President Macapagal-Arroyo strongly denied she bought her 2004 election victory or that she had bribed lawmakers to thwart opposition efforts to impeach her.

Commission on Elections officials at the center of the payoff controversy also branded the allegations as a pack of lies.

One woman Comelec regional director, Helen Aguila-Flores, said she had always lived simply, had never known how it was to feel rich and challenged her accusers to look into her bank account.

"This did not happen at all. People bribing people in front of me, I deny that," Ms Arroyo said. "And so we leave it at that because I have my legal rights. I have to protect myself because I a m not being protected the way that society should protect an accused."

Ms Arroyo made the statement when asked on ABS-CBN TV about allegations that Comelec directors were paid big sums of money in her own house to ensure her 2004 poll victory.

Ms Arroyo also denied bribing members of Congress to dissuade them from signing the impeachment complaint against her.

"I am not aware of that ... There are rules of law that protect the accused. The accused is presumed innocent until proven guilty by the due process, which includes the rights of the accused."

Ms Arroyo also invoked her rights during an interview with CNN.

Flores, election regional director for

LILIA/ A8

Some Comelec officials confirm invites, but ...

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Jerome Aning

SEVERAL regional directors of the Commission on Elections have confirmed they were invited to a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at her La Vista residence but they stayed away out of delicadeza, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said yesterday.

INQUIRER sources have said it was at that meeting, held in the posh Quezon City subdivision before last year's presidential election, that Comelec officials allegedly received big sums of money supposedly in Ms Arroyo's presence—a charge the President has denied.

Pimentel, in a statement and in a talk with the INQUIRER, said some of the directors told him the meeting was arranged by then Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcellano, the man at the center of a vote-rigging scandal that has engulfed the presidency.

Some of the Comelec officials may even testify in the Senate inquiry on the "jueteng" controversy, which is to resume on Wednesday, Pimentel said.

Asked if it was true that money changed hands in that meeting, the opposition leader said: "I have no specific details."

Comelec National Capital Region Director Ferdinand Rafanan, who was reportedly not invited to the meeting, said

SOME/ A7

THE FILIPINO CAN. This three-deck passenger ferry with all the comforts of a luxury hotel costing $15 million is the largest ever constructed in the Philippines now in use in the Netherlands.

World-class, 5-star boat proudly made by Pinoys

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CARRYING 1,300 passengers and 58 cars from mainland Harlingen in the Netherlands to Vlieland across the Waddenzee is one of the world's most advanced, state-of-the-art passenger ferries.

The Vlieland, which started its commercial operation this month, is 64.14 meters long (about 30 cars parked bumper-to-bumper) and constructed with steel hulls and an aluminum superstructure. It runs at 15 knots when fully loaded and can cut through ice that regularly forms on the Waddanzee.

The three-deck ferry boat comes with all the comforts of a luxury hotel, bringing tourist ferry service to a new level.

It boasts of a VIP lounge, tourist class saloons, a long bar with piped-in Heineken beer, a play area for children, ice cream bar, sun deck and ramps for the disabled.

And the Vlieland is made in the Philippines.

More specifically, in Balamban, Cebu, where hundreds of workers of the Aboitiz group's FBMA Marine Inc. are hard at work on offshore crew boats finishing yet another ship for delivery to Mexico. Most of the workers have vocational degrees from Don Bosco and are based in Balamban.

It had taken 16 months to build the Vlieland. It left Cebu last May 12, sailed through the Suez Canal and arrived in the Netherlands on June 30 to the delight of Doeksen Transport Group, one of the Netherlands' oldest maritime services companies.

FBMA chair Roberto E. Aboitiz said the Vlieland was a milestone in the company's history as it was the biggest pas-

WORLD-CLASS/ A8

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/07/31/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

RAMOS FORMULA

'Let's Cha-cha, not bicker'

CONTINUED political bickering will take a heavier toll on the country than a shift in the form of government through Charter change, said former President Fidel Ramos.

Those who continue to oppose Cha-cha are "doing a great disservice to the country," said Ramos, whose proposal to fast-track Charter change is considered to have been a factor in President Macapagal-Arroyo's surviving the most serious crisis in her presidency.

"It is a necessary requirement for us to fulfill so we can move on more efficiently and faster. What is expensive is the incessant debate without any action on the ground," he said at an airport briefing yesterday.

Ramos said that those who sneer that Cha-cha was a mere diversion from the impeachment proceedings against the President were only "interested in cosmetic, short-term, temporary remedies to our economic problems and political division."

He seemed unfazed by the "initial negative reaction" in the Senate to the revived Charter change campaign.

"It will take time but I think the process has already begun," he said.

Shortened term

House Speaker Jose de Venecia said President Macapagal-Arroyo was willing to have her term of office reviewed and even shortened if a revised Constitution mandating a shift to a federal-parliamentary system would call for it.

"She wants to set an example. Since last year, she has been pushing the shift in the form of government. So all those talks that she wanted to divert attention from the impeachment or that the parliamentary system would provide her a graceful exit are mere black propaganda," De Venecia told reporters during the inauguration of the De Venecia Information and Technology Center at the Pangasinan State University yesterday.

Asked if Ms Arroyo had categorically said that she was willing to abort her term, De Venecia answered: "That is the clear implication. Under normal conditions, she should finish her term up to 2010. But if there's a new Constitution and it says the parliamentary system starts in 2007, then [her] term of office is shortened."

He said he had told the President recently that her six-year term would be reduced if the shift to a parliamentary system were to happen earlier than expected.

De Venecia also said that the senators opposing constitutional changes could be won over by the "power of public opinion."

"I believe that with God's blessing and the overwhelming support of the people and the power of public opinion, I think the Senate will see the light of day," he said.

The Speaker said a parliamentary government, while not the "cure-all," would reduce corruption and cheating during elections.

It would promote a strong two-party system and reduce campaign expenses, and illegal gambling operators cannot meddle in elections which would become "simple and short" exercises, he said. *Volt Contreras and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Forbes listing of GMA now a partisan issue

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's figuring on the list of the world's most powerful women has become a partisan issue, hailed by her allies and contemptuously dismissed by her enemies.

The recognition was "a matter that every Filipino must be proud of... and we must be proud of it," said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

But Senate Majority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said he considered it an insult to the Filipino people who he said should have been consulted by the proponents of the global ranking of feminine clout.

Ms Arroyo jumped to fourth place this year, from ninth last year, in the US-based Forbes magazine's list of the world's most powerful women.

Nograles said he could not understand why other Filipinos do not appreciate their own leader when Ms Arroyo was being respected all over the globe.

Nograles described the President's situation as biblical, "where a prophet is not appreciated by his own people but respected very much by others."

He urged the President's detractors to be more responsible in their actions if they want stability in the country.

"The President is doing all her best for our country. Let us all unite and support her to save our nation," he said.

Aleem Mahmod Mala Adilao, chair of the Ulama Lèague of the Philippines in Southern Mindanao, said Forbes was correct in citing the President because she is a strong and tough leader.

"Despite the calls for her to step down from office, she remained calm and pursued her economic reforms," he said.

Pimentel said Forbes' ranking was not grounded in reality as the magazine failed to ask the Filipino people, noting that the latest Pulse Asia survey showed that 47 percent, or nearly one in two Filipinos, found Ms Arroyo unacceptable as a leader.

"I believe such praises that are not consistent with the sentiment of the citizens are an insult to the people," Pimentel said.

In Cotabato City, legislators from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and Muslim clerics said they continue to support the President despite the recent Pulse Asia survey.

"She has led and should continue to lead the country to its full development and progress. Her leadership has shown that our country can indeed move forward and catch up with the progress of our more progressive neighbors in Asia," said Sulu Rep. Hussin Amin in a statement.

Tawi-Tawi Rep. Anuar Abubakar said that "no matter what the destabilizers would hurl against the Chief Executive, Muslims in Tawi-tawi will always maintain their support for the President's programs."

He said it was because of Ms Arroyo's "sincerity and strong determination," that the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front was brought back to the negotiating table and the "nefarious" activities of the Abu Sayyaf and other bandits abated.

"Peace at last is now looming on the horizon in Mindanao," Abubakar said. *Anthony S. Allada and Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and Juliet Labog Javellana*

Federal system will hand gov't to dynasties, says party-list solon

By Philip C. Tubeza

A PARTY-LIST legislator has warned that a federal system would hand over the country to the entrenched provincial political dynasties.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said the country's political culture already revolved around entrenched political clans, especially in the provinces.

Their influence would be strengthened if more power were devolved from the national government in Manila, with the proposed federal states turning into mere fiefdoms of these political warlords, he said.

"We would be taking a step back and reversing history if we were to have a federal system at this time," he said.

Casiño said that Rep. Jose Miguel Zubiri was unsuitable as a "poster boy" for the federalist movement as he belonged to the powerful Zubiri clan of Bukidnon which stands to benefit from a federal system.

"His family has a lot to gain from a federal system," Casiño said.

The younger Zubiri is an ardent proponent of Charter change and is the lead convener of the Movement for a Federal Philippines, a coalition campaigning for a federal system.

Zubiri's father, Jose, was a three-term House representative before becoming the province's governor in 2001.

The young Zubiri has said that the influence of political clans would diminish in a federal-parliamentary system if the government were to provide campaign funds to political parties. Small political parties and politicians with a good track record would then have an equal chance of getting elected, he said.

Armed Forces officials said they are studying the repercussions on the military of a federated Philippines run by a parliament.

Lt. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, commanding general of the Visayas Central Command, said a federal model of governance should not break up the military into federal units that are independently financed and supervised by regional state governments. *With a report from Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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Noli unfazed by impeachment, Cha-cha issues

By Cynthia D. Balana

VICE President Noli de Castro yesterday said he would not allow political difficulties, particularly the impeachment case against President Macapagal-Arroyo and the charter change debate, to affect his work and alliance with the President.

Political intrigues will not lead anywhere, De Castro said, adding that he would rather focus on his duties as chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), presidential adviser on price monitoring and overseas Filipinos, and co-chair of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

He urged other government officials to similarly free their minds of politics in order to serve the people well.

"We have to remain focused on our work. We cannot allow the political noise to take away our attention from the more pressing housing issues at hand," the Vice President said.

"Politics will distract us from our single-minded commitment to promote a strong, vibrant and effective housing sector," he said.

De Castro's lawyer, meanwhile, said the Vice President's detractors who tried to picture him as an extortionist at the height of the 2004 election campaign were "in hiding."

Lawyer Armando Marcelo said police could not serve arrest warrants against Andrew M. Gonzales and Rafael T. Engle in connection with the libel cases filed against them by De Castro.

During the campaign, Gonzales, who claimed to be the national director of the "Bagong Lahing Pilipino Development Foundation Inc.," alleged that his organization was given a "bad press" in De Castro's weekly public affairs and investigative news program, "Magandang Gabi Bayan," after they resisted De Castro's alleged attempt to extort P3.5 million from them.

De Castro denied the charges and filed a libel suit against Gonzales last year. But until now Gonzales has yet to appear before the court and answer the charges. Police have not been able to serve him an arrest warrant.

Engle has also been slapped with libel charges for accusing De Castro of trying to extort P2 million from him, supposedly in exchange for a favorable feature in a "Magandang Gabi Bayan" story on the disappearance of his wife.

Engle failed to appear in a recent hearing of his case, and was also arrested but police could not locate him.

"People cannot just be allowed to smear someone else's reputation and run away from the consequences of such illegal actions," Marcelo said.

De Castro said he would rather concentrate on the job of meeting the country's housing requirements of 3.7 million units until 2010.

But the government will be able to meet only 1.1 million of these because of the tight budget, he said. The private sector will have to make up the difference, he said.

De Castro said the government was committed to making the housing sector "investment friendly."

He said he was coordinating with the finance department to exempt from VAT housing units selling for P1.5 million or less.

De Castro also said he has been instructed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to decongest Metro Manila by constructing more housing and community centers outside of the region.

He said the HUDCC Council has approved a new price ceiling of P300,000 from the previous P225,000, and put up alternative compliance mechanisms such as floating PAG-IBIG and HGC housing bonds.

The HUDCC has also strengthened the financial management capacity of housing agencies, improved the collection of housing loans, scheduled the disposition of non-performing loans and assets and promoted transparency in transactions.

42% of Metro think Loren won, says Ibon

NEARLY half of Metro Manila residents, or 42.64 percent, believe that former Senator Loren Legarda won the election for vice president in the 2004 elections, according to a survey released last week by Ibon Foundation Inc.

The survey showed 35.36 percent, or just about one-third of the respondents, believed that Noli de Castro won as vice president.

The survey, which polled 455 respondents representing a cross-section of Metro Manila residents, was conducted from July 20 to 25.

About 21.75 percent did not know who really won in the last vice presidential contest.

On whether De Castro cheated in the 2004 elections, 47.9 percent believed he did while only 26.15 percent said he did not.

The same survey results showed that 82.2 percent of the respondents believed there was massive cheating in the last elections as against only 7.91 percent believed that there was none.

Asked with "who is more deserving to replace Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," 38.88 percent named Legarda while 30.33 percent said De Castro. About 26.81 percent said they "don't know."

On learning of the survey results, Legarda's camp renewed its appeal for a speedy resolution of the electoral protest it filed against De Castro before the electoral tribunal.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," Legarda said.

Legarda said the continuing public demand for Ms Arroyo to resign has made her election protest before the Presidential Electoral Tribunal "more urgent."

"It is important that the successor should be the legitimately elected vice president, otherwise national stability would not be restored," she said.

RAMOS

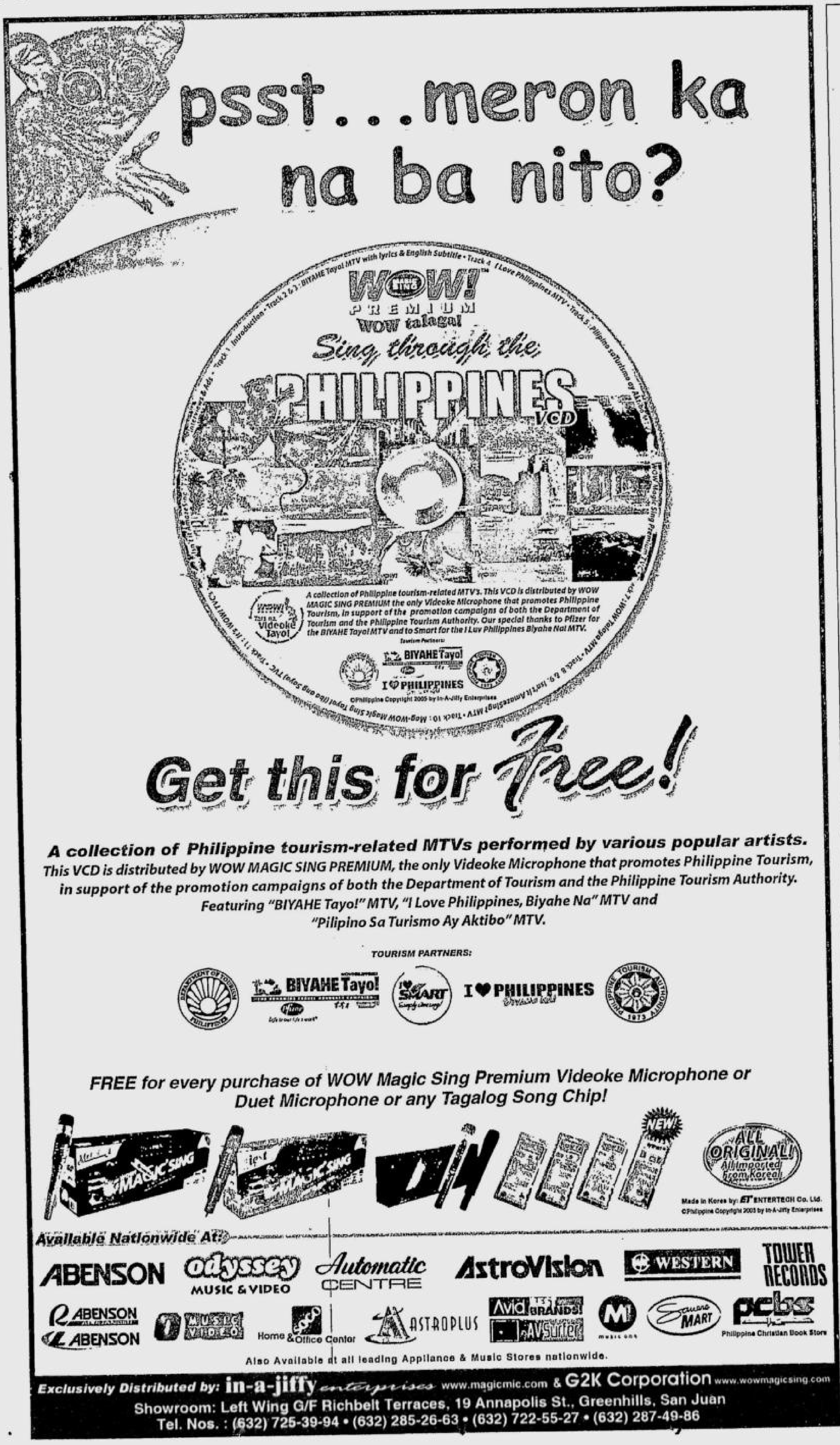
FVR shrugs off Miriam

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday shrugged off the latest tirade from his arch-critic Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, saying she had better take extra care about her "credibility."

"She's free to say anything she wants, but as a responsible public official she must support her allegations," he said in a briefing at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

"Because while she has the right to talk in anyway she wants, her credibility might be affected," he said of the feisty lawmaker.

Ramos was told of Defensor-Santiago's statement tagging him as the probable mastermind behind the "Hello, Garci" controversy and the financier behind ouster calls against Ms Arroyo as well as the reported restiveness in the military.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, July 31, 2005
18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Isaiah 55:1-3**

Come, listen, eat, and drink

Thus says the Lord: Come here, all you who are thirsty, come to the water!

All who have no money, come!

Yes, without money and at no cost, buy and drink wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not food and labor for what does not satisfy? Listen to me, and you will eat well; you will enjoy the richest of fare.

Incline your ear and come to me; listen, that your soul may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, I will fulfill in you my promises to David.

2nd Reading: **Romans 8:35,37-39**

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ

Brothers and sisters, who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Will it be trials, or anguish, persecution or hunger, lack of clothing, or dangers or sword?

No, in all of this we are more than conquerors, thanks to him who has loved us. I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor spiritual powers, neither the present nor the future, nor cosmic powers, were they from heaven or from the deep world below, nor any creature whatsoever will separate us from the love of God, which we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Gospel: **Matthew 14:13-21**

They all ate and were satisfied

On hearing about the death of John the Baptist, Jesus set out secretly by boat for a secluded place. But the people heard of it, and they followed him on foot from their towns. When Jesus went ashore, he saw the crowd gathered there and he had compassion on them. And he healed their sick.

Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said, "We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat."

But Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat." They answered, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes." Jesus said to them, "Bring them here to me."

Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.

Commentary

John has been beheaded and when Jesus hears the violent news he goes to a secluded place but the people hear of the news and are devastated—now he goes looking for Jesus and Jesus turns his face towards them in compassion and turns towards the cross and his own violent death. He heals them, touches them, teaches them, his presence comforting and strengthening them and then it grows late and they need food. Jesus takes his disciples' food and has them give it away to the crowds after having blessed it and broken it apart and shared it around. The disciples' food is taken from them and their job is to distribute their food and to collect the leftovers. And the leftovers fill twelve baskets. Where did the baskets come from? The miracle was the sharing of all the peoples' food—and people eating together who would never have thought to break bread as one. And it's a huge crowd—five hundred men (ratio of women and children to men is five or six to one so it's about twenty-five thousand to thirty thousand-the new Passover, exodus, covenant and Eucharist). Jesus begins the way that will lead to death—the way of compassion, of healing and feeding the world, his presence, his Word, his bread and his justice.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW) - Abandonment - As a rule, the employer bears the burden to prove that the dismissal was for a valid and just cause. In this case, the respondents failed to prove any such cause for the petitioner's dismissal. They insinuated that the petitioner abandoned his job. To constitute abandonment, these two factors must concur: (1) the failure to report for work or absence without valid or justifiable reason; and (2) a clear intention to sever employer-employee relationship. Obviously, the petitioner did not intend to sever his relationship with the respondent company for at the time that he allegedly abandoned his job, the petitioner just filed a complaint for regularization, which was forthwith amended to one for illegal dismissal. A charge of abandonment is totally inconsistent with the immediate filing of a complaint for illegal dismissal, more so when it includes a prayer for reinstatement. (Citations omitted.) (Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Chavez v. National Labor Relations Commission, G.R. No. 146530, January 17, 2005)

BY R.B. VERA

Oil firms hike prices by another 50¢ a liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL firms led by refiner Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., jacked up prices of their gasoline products by another 50 centavos a liter as world oil prices continued to soar.

Shell implemented its price hike at 10 p.m. Friday, followed by Caltex Philippines Inc. at 6 a.m. and Total (Philippines) Corp. at noon yesterday.

By midnight Saturday, Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. also raised gasoline prices by the same level.

Flying V will increase gasoline prices by 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

The oil firms cited the continuing rise of international oil prices as their reason for this price hike.

As of July 29, the regional benchmark Dubai crude averaged $52.78 a barrel, up by almost $2 from the June average of $51.08 a barrel, data from the Department of Energy showed.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products soared to a July 1-28 average of $64.57 a barrel, close to $5 higher than the $59.65-a-barrel average posted last month.

MOPS-based diesel also surged to an average of $71.52 a barrel in the first 29 days of July from last month's average of $71.32 a barrel.

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya said in an interview over the weekend that this latest price hike was actually justified as world prices of unleaded gasoline and diesel had gone up 19 percent and 14 percent, respectively, since May.

Local oil firms had actually not been able to hike prices fast enough to reflect the increases in international prices, he said, giving them a window to still jack up prices by between P1.50 and P2 a liter just to catch up.

However, come August, he said world prices would likely soften further.

"(For diesel), I see a freeze for August or a possible rollback towards the third to fourth week. Unleaded would likely go up a bit more," he said.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have increased 14 times by a total of P7.35 a liter, while diesel fuel prices have risen 14 times by a total of P7.05 a liter.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P31.55 and P33.30 a liter, diesel at between P28.85 and P30.19 a liter and kerosene at between P30.45 and P31.51 a liter.

No screening for US military aid to RP

WASHINGTON—The United States failed to screen security force trainees in the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand for human rights violations before it sent those countries millions of dollars in aid, Congress' investigative arm said on Friday.

The Government Accountability Office blamed most of the lapses on the State Department, but it also found shortfalls at the Justice Department.

The GAO's report said the Defense Department did a better job at screening trainees.

The United States provides assistance to military and police forces in more than 150 countries, but it is illegal to send aid when there is evidence of gross human rights violations.

The GAO said the United States spent $265.7 million between 2001 and 2004 to equip and train forces in those Southeast Asian countries without investigating nearly 7,000 foreign security force trainees for gross human rights violations.

"We found no evidence that the three posts we visited vetted an estimated 6,900 law enforcement officials trained with State assistance," the GAO concluded.

"Departments and posts lacked clear and consistent vetting procedures," the GAO wrote.

The Defense Department did a better job at reviewing foreign trainees, GAO said. Nearly 90 percent of Defense trainee files from the Philippines selected for the study showed some evidence of review, it said.

A State Department spokeswoman said the department's assistance programs were in "full compliance with the law," adding that officials were working to address the concerns raised by the GAO.

"We take the GAO report very seriously in light of our commitment to human rights and to the objectives of the law," said Nancy Beck.

The GAO study recommended that the secretary of state, in consultation with the defense secretary and attorney general, improve management of the program by issuing written guidance to posts and headquarters overseeing the human rights violations screening.

Reuters

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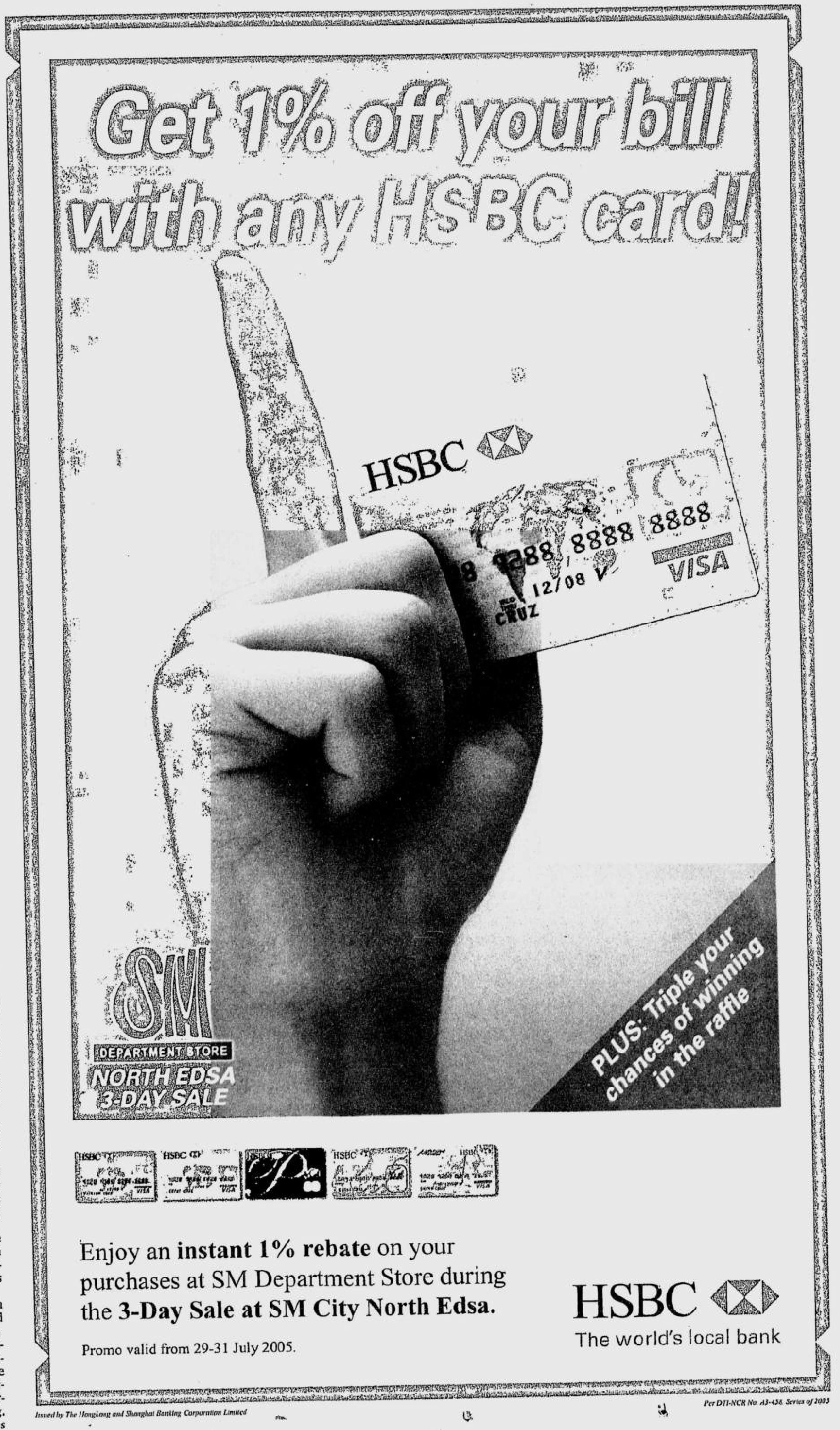

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Next 6 months critical for GMA

By Norman Bordadora

ONE OF President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic advisers yesterday said the next six months would be a critical period for her to come up with substantial economic reforms and regain the public's confidence amid allegations she cheated her way into the presidency.

"The middle class is giving her six months to get things done.. It's all in her state of the nation address. The pre-need firms, the cost of medicines, the need for health insurance (all need to be taken care of immediately)," Rep. Joey Salceda told the INQUIRER in an interview.

According to Salceda, the political solutions being pursued by the administration-impeachment, charter change, and the proposed Truth Commission-don't offer much of a way out for Ms Arroyo.

"It's reforms or resignation," Salceda stressed.

Salceda said these solutions are "so politically colored" that he doesn't expect them to help the President recover. He believes economic reforms would do much more and allow the President to move on from the political crisis plaguing her administration.

He said the impeachment process will have a difficult time in the House due to the majority's "numerical superiority" and charter change may not see light in an adversarial Senate. The Truth Commission, he added, doesn't have much support in both chambers.

"Now, what? It boils down to reform/perform or go!" Salceda said in a text message.

The middle class, which has yet to take a stand and make its presence felt regarding the crisis that has cast serious doubts on the legitimacy and integrity of the President, is said to be closely watching Ms Arroyo's next moves.

"The urban middle class is subjecting her to a six-month probationary period. closer scrutiny," he said.

Salceda said six months is a reasonable time for the President to come up with economic reforms that would immediately benefit Filipinos, particularly the poor.

"Governance need not be legislated. And she can very much do it," Salceda said.

At the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo media forum, Salceda said the processes being pursued by the administration don't seem to offer much as solutions out of the political crisis.

"Political reforms are not the major solution to the problems. The President should focus her attention on the problems of the people such as (the need) to ensure there is enough food and there are plenty of jobs," Salceda said.

Odds favor GMA survival

From page A1

scenarios would fall to 5-10 percent and 20-25 percent, respectively.

"GMA is tougher politically than the opposition expected," Stuermer said, noting that the longer the impeachment and the Cha-cha debates went on, the more the President's political support would recover.

But another US-based firm warned of more political instability even if Ms Arroyo survives moves to unseat her.

"Even if the President survives in office, the possibility of an executive weakened by lower public support and an obstructive legislature will heighten political instability and further impede the administration's reform efforts," said credit rating agency Standard & Poor's.

The S&P report, written by Singapore-based analysts Agost Benard and Ping Chew, said Ms Arroyo's consensus-building skills had become "less than effective in the face of what remains highly divided and fragmented political setting, in which political dynasties and vested interests hold sway, and where individual political interests undermine policy making and implementation."

Subsequent calls for the President's resignation by key constituents, the departure of her economic team, and an impeachment motion had raised the specter of prolonged political instability that was distracting the government from fiscal and economic reforms, it noted.

Muddle-through scenario

S&P warned this in turn would likely result in a continued "muddle-through" scenario' that would yield only modest progress. Although this might be sufficient to stabilize or reduce the Philippines' debt slightly, S&P said that scenario would prolong the country's vulnerability given its high debt levels and external leverage.

"The outlook on the ratings could, however, be revised to stable once the country's political crisis is resolved and the government returns to a credible and sustained process of fiscal consolidation," S&P said.

Strong in provinces

Stuermer noted that despite her dismal ratings in Metro Manila where majority of residents want her to resign, Ms Arroyo's popularity remains strong in the provinces, particularly in Cebu.

"We note that former President Fidel Ramos has come to President Arroyo's aid and that her ace-in-the-hole is the strength of her support in provinces outside of Metro Manila, especially on the island of Cebu," he said.

It was not surprising, the analyst said, that public opinion polls routinely reported on her declining support in the capital region.

"She did not carry the capital region in last year's election and is no more popular in Manila than George W. Bush is in New York City," Stuermer said.

"However, she is much more popular in the provinces and this support may be rising as a result of a backlash against what is perceived as the arrogance of 'Imperial Manila' in the provinces. The more Manila-based newspapers criticize her and Manila-based politicians call for her resignation, the better the president's support in the Provinces," he said.

Stuermer said GMA's chances of serving out her full six-year term assuming she would survive the impeachment process dramatically improved when Senate president Franklin Drilon announced his opposition to a Charter change,

Under the Constitution, any proposal of the constituent assembly on revising the Constitution must be approved by three-fourths of the sitting senators. Only six senators are needed to reject any such proposal.

Drilon, however, is amenable to an elected constitutional convention, which Stuermer said would be more flexible and have a better chance of delivering a final product at some point in time.

Tainted Comelec

"This option, however, would require using the tainted election commission responsible for the now-contested results of last year's election. Most likely, Congress would need to create a bulletproof election commission and election system before any credible election for a constitutional convention could be held," Stuermer said.

Reforming and restructuring the election commission, he noted, might only be slightly less difficult and time-consuming than revising the Constitution.

"Promulgation of the new Constitution, especially in the provinces outside of Manila, might be met with apathy or even open hostility and not viewed as a solution to the Philippines' political problems," he said, noting that provincial officials in Mindanao had already threatened to secede from the Philippines if either the Constitution were changed or the President removed from office.

Stuermer also said that the longer the impeachment process drags on, the less likelihood it would prosper by the end of this year as lawmakers' focus on reelection prospects for 2007."

Quality of complaint

"It may take a really brave congressman to sign the impeachment complaint, especially if he or she is from a party that is presently or was previously in President Arroyo's coalition," the analyst said.

"Finally, the opposition must be careful about the quality of its impeachment complaint," he said.

If the complaint is rejected, the opposition must wait for another year to file a new complaint as the Constitution limits such an initiative against a sitting President to one per year.

"In addition, filing the complaint too early might cause them to miss more compelling evidence that may surface later in the year," Stuermer said.

But S&P said the political crisis could neither be solved by a shift to a parliamentary system nor the ouster of President Arroyo.

In a commentary dated July 29, S&P—which recently changed its outlook on Philippine ratings to "negative" from "stable"—said the political turmoil hounding Ms Arroyo bodes ill for policy continuity and heightened risks of setbacks to fiscal discipline and progress in structural reforms.

S&P issued the report after the President's State of the Nation Address before Congress, whereby she pushed for a change to a parliamentary-federal form of government and likewise pledged to continue fiscal and economic reforms "at whatever political cost."

But S&P said the risk to reforms and policy implementation posed by the "personality and narrow interest-based politics" was set to remain.

"Neither a change in president, nor a shift to a parliamentary system of government—an idea that is increasingly gaining traction—is expected to ameliorate this to any great effect," S&P said.

To its credit, S&P said the Philippine economy was showing much resilience despite ongoing political uncertainty, weak leadership, security concerns, and fiscal woes that had sapped investor confidence and depressed investment.

We urge Congress: Amend the Charter in 60-90 days!

We support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call, in her State-of-the Nation-Address, to amend the Constitution and establish a *Federal Republic of the Philippines with a Parliamentary Government.*

We call on the Senate and the House to set aside their personalist interests and give the highest priority to the debate on Charter Change.

And we ask Congress to undertake urgently all the steps necessary to create a credible political environment for reform. Among these steps:

- Raise the Commission on Elections beyond the reach of partisan politics;
- Set up a truly professional civil service;
- Modernize political parties to articulate party policies and programs and to act as efficient channels of popular expression;
- Authorize state-financing for qualified political parties, as embodied in the de Venecia-Angara bills;
- Ban the perpetuation of political dynasties;
- Deter turncoatism and party-switching. If senators, congressmen, governors and mayors change parties, they should be compelled to give up their offices, as is the practice under some parliamentary systems.
- Hold synchronized elections only every five years, to save the country their high costs and debilitating campaigns.

We acknowledge that the 1987 Constitution mandates Congress to determine the mode of amending or revising the Charter; and urge it to choose a Constituent Assembly, which is its first option.

We call on the President to form a *Citizens Consultative Constitutional Commission*—so that citizens, civil society, the private sector and local authorities can take part in discussions on the proposed amendments.

We urge Congress to limit the proposed amendments to the following:

- Review the form and structure of government;
- Review some provisions in the 1987 Constitution which deter the country's economic development;
- Provide for an orderly transition from the current form of government to the new.

Proposed amendments were submitted three years ago by an overwhelming majority of the House of Representatives representing all major political parties; by NGOs in Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao; and by local governments—the League of Provincial Governors and the League of Municipal Mayors. But those proposals were blocked by 20 senators.

We urge Congress to complete its review of the new Constitution within 60-90 days, so that the new Charter may be submitted to our sovereign people for their approval.

Coalition of Citizens for Charter Change Now!

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Unforgettable golf round bared Dy's year-long secret

From page A1

Los Angeles late last June that Dy, former governor of Isabela, let out one secret that he had been keeping to himself for more than a year, according to a source close to the former governor.

The secret: A meeting that Dy attended in La Vista in the home of the First Couple in Quezon City shortly before the May 2004 presidential elections.

According to witnesses brought out in the open by Archbishop Oscar Cruz, it was in that meeting where money changed hands to influence the outcome of the elections.

According to another source close to Dy, the former governor is trying to stay away from the heat generated by that secret at home.

Dy had been licking his wounds in California following one of the biggest political upsets in Isabela and Philippine history.

"He doesn't relish being in the limelight as a result of this (scandal)," said the source. In fact, the source said, Dy is even angry at Philippine media because "now they run after him, but when he was campaigning (for reelection) he was all but ignored."

A day after that fateful round of golf, the golf buddies met again in another location and discussed details of the secret.

Contacted yesterday, Sotto confirmed that there was such a round of golf played but did not say much else.

Dy, a member of the political dynasty that has ruled Isabela for years, lost his reelection bid for governor to radio broadcaster Grace Padaca, a political neophyte.

Another source said while Dy was not volunteering to testify and in fact is reluctant to take the witness stand in the "jueteng" investigation at the Senate, he said "he would not tell a lie" if asked to testify.

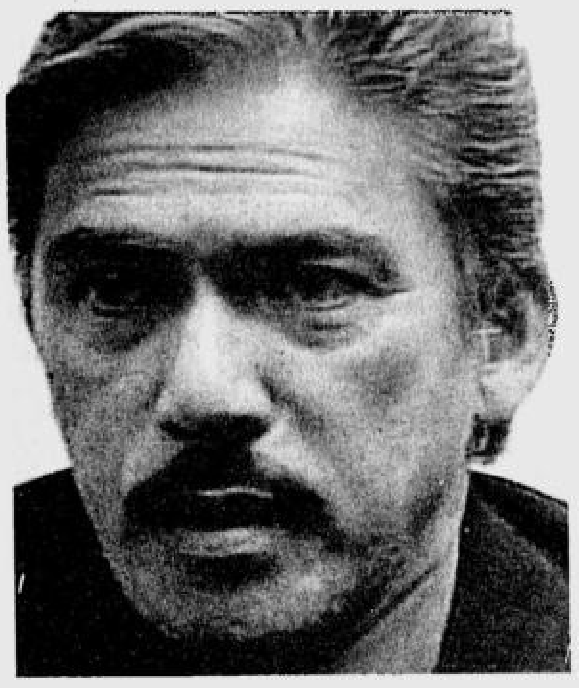
The source, who helped in Dy's failed campaign for reelection as governor of Isabela, said the former governor shared the secret not knowing it would soon make headlines and rattle allies and officials of Malacañang back home.

According to the source, Dy also took flight after finding out with certainty that he was on the hit list of the New People's Army, who was believed to be supportive of Padaca during the elections.

How it got to bishop

Sotto, a key opposition figure, came home early this month with Dy's secret. The source said he passed the secret on to former Quezon City Rep. Tony Aquino, Sotto III's partner in a BMW dealership in Libis, Quezon City.

DY: Did he or didn't he?



SOTTO: A secret after nine holes

It was Aquino, said the source, who brought Dy's secret to Archbishop Oscar Cruz, who had been waging war on jueteng and demanding that President Macapagal-Arroyo come clean on it.

But Bishop Cruz initially hesitated to take the information hook, line, sinker since it appeared to be hearsay, the source said.

Bishop Cruz, the source added, wanted Dy to come out in the open or execute an affidavit attesting to what he saw, heard and did in the afternoon meeting at the house of the Arroyos in La Vista.

A group says no

It was the bishop's way of making sure the witnesses who volunteer information to him are not feeding him falsehoods.

The source said the "secret" was offered to a civil society group that was critical of Ms Arroyo. The group turned down the offer.

According to jueteng witness Sandra Cam, the meeting was more than just a social gathering among Ms Arroyo, Dy and several regional directors of the Commission on Elections.

In a press conference in Intramuros with Bishop Cruz and two other jueteng witnesses, Cam said millions of pesos changed hands during the meeting, which she said was called to make sure Ms Arroyo won by at least a million votes over her closest rival, the late actor Fernando Poe Jr.

At the meeting also, according to Cam who was quoting another source, was Lilia Pineda, mayor of Lubao, Pampanga and husband of suspected jueteng lord Bong Pineda.

Cam said her informant told her that Pineda, in the presence of Ms Arroyo, gave out P2 million in cash to each of the election officials who were there. Mayor Pineda denied the allegation. *(See related story on Page A1)*

Hogwash

Palace officials described the allegation as hogwash.

Dy and Padaca were among the names mentioned in the now controversial "Gloriagate" tapes that former NBI Assistant Director Samuel Ong brought out in the open.

In a transcript of the tapes prepared by the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ), the controversial former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was supposed to have discussed the case of Dy with an unidentified caller.

Dy was moving heaven and earth to prevent a loss to Padaca.

Some Comelec officials confirm invites, but ...

From page A1

in an affidavit that he had heard about the alleged "*bigayan*" (giving) in La Vista and that "the one who told me about it was a 'highly reliable source'."

Rafanan said in his affidavit executed on Friday that he had been asked by media people if he believed the incident happened.

"I said that although I believe my source, I still want it investigated since it was still just hearsay to me," said Rafanan, who was regional director of Eastern Visayas in last year's elections.

Name names

Pimentel said he was trying to get all the names of the election officials who attended the meeting or stayed out of it "perhaps out of delicadeza."

He said their names would be submitted to the Senate committees investigating the "jueteng" issue.

"I think so," Pimentel replied, when asked if any of the directors was willing to testify. "Of course, once we have all the names, we can ask some of them to testify in the committees, principally on the invitation extended to them by Garcillano."

Letter of resignation

But Pimentel could not categorically say if there was any Comelec official present in the La Vista meeting or meetings who was willing to testify.

Pimentel said the grave revelation about Ms Arroyo's supposed role in subverting the will of the electorate should prompt her to heed calls for her resignation.

"This is an additional reason why Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo should now consider writing her resignation letter," he said.

He said these were certainly impeachable offenses but that Ms Arroyo should spare the nation the long process and leave Malacañang now.

Pimentel initially spoke about the La Vista issue in his weekly program over radio dzXL.

Poll supervisors, too

"I can say now that there were some Comelec directors who relayed to me their stand that many of them did not go to that meeting. In other words, they confirmed there was such a meeting. They were invited by Garcillano but they did not attend," Pimentel said on radio.

"I don't want it said that all Comelec directors are good-for-nothing because many of them did not honor that invitation."

The senator also said on radio: "In connection with that Garcillano invitation to the meeting where Gloria was present when money was given, I was told there were also provincial election supervisors." Pimentel said.

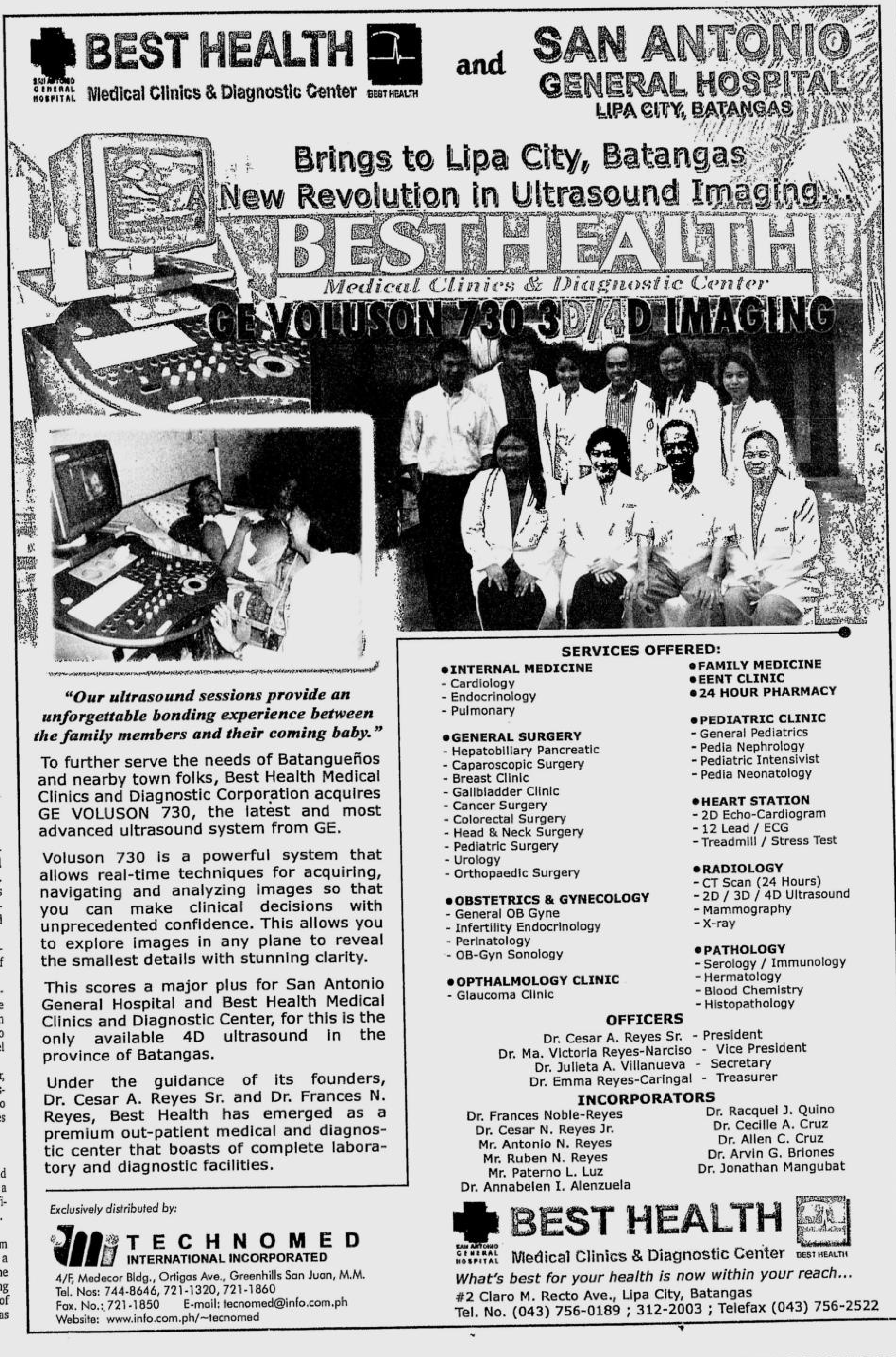
"Yes that [meeting] is confirmed and later, once I am able to compile the names I will disclose them so that we will know there are also decent lower-ranking Comelec employees whom we can still trust."

Slams Cam

Pimentel at the same time slammed jueteng witness Sandra Cam for divulging in a press conference recently that a former official would testify about the La Vista meeting.

"Cam should clam up," Pimentel said.

"I am deeply concerned that Sandra Cam would be saying that there is this witness, a governor or ex-governor and this is what he would say. It's as if the witnesses are coming from her and she knows what's on the mind of the witness even if I know that she only has second-hand information," Pimentel said.



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Just joking—Bunye

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

HER PRESIDENTIAL slip is showing.

Malacañang yesterday said President Macapagal-Arroyo was only kidding when she inferred that she—and not her bitter rival, the late Fernando Poe Jr.—was cheated out of her rightful votes in last year's elections.

"The President was only joking," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in an interview with dzXL radio.

Bunye was referring to the presidential slip of the tongue made during an extensive radio interview on Friday where Ms Arroyo commented on her highly disputed victory in last year's elections.

"At the end of last year's elections, an exit survey by dzRH showed that I [had] won by a margin of 8 percent. I won finally, but only by 3 percent. So this probably means that it might have been I who was... " said the President, without finishing her sentence.

Ms Arroyo apparently realized the repercussions of her statement but it was too late to take it back. It was already out there—conveyed to a politically aware public by radio.

Doubts on her election victory were resurrected last month when the opposition came out with a wiretapped conversation of the President and an election official widely believed to be Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano at the height of the canvassing of results.

In that bugged phone conversation, Ms Arroyo was seeking assurance from the election officer that she would get a margin of no less than 1 million votes.

Hotshot Erap PR . . .

From page A1

guru Reli German hopes to achieve for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

German had been tapped to join Ms Arroyo's crisis management team to deal with her most serious political challenge more than a year after joining her administration.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, German revealed that the crisis management team already had seven to eight meetings at the Palace since the "Hello Garci" scandal erupted on June 6. They had mapped out strategies to counter their boss' growing unpopularity and plans to parry calls for her immediate resignation.

Chief of damage control

"I used to do specific communications projects (such as the energy crisis) but I was recently asked to sit in the crisis management team," German said. "Our role is to make comments, assess the situation and determine what we can do."

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, who drafted German for the President's reelection team, leads the damage control body which consists of former Communication Director Silvestre Afable, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao and Environment Secretary Michael Defensor.

But German said he had no plans to be an official spokesperson of the President (who is in the midst of a quick image makeover) amid reports that Malacañang was planning to recruit more spokespersons.

Another ex-Estrada official, former presidential spokesperson Mike Toledo, is personally being wooed by Bunye to join the administration.

Miscommunication

German said he preferred staying on the "periphery" of Malacañang's media affairs and representing the administration in talk shows and other media events.

"I think that my being able to look and assess ... issues and situations from a PR standpoint and outside the Palace ... is my contribution to the administration's communication's efforts," he said.

German said the recent snafu on the first day of the President's media blitz where Bunye shut the door on foreign journalists and stage-managed a press conference with local media was just a "matter of miscommunication" and an "oversight of the Palace."

GMA's scourge

The failure to communicate, German said, had been the scourge of Ms Arroyo. "Ermita says we have to reach out to the people and say how things are done and where things are going. People's eyes have been closed to her achievements and to what this government 'is doing. Improving communication lines will serve as a buffer to any accusations against her in the future," he explained.

German campaigned for Estrada in 1998 and for Ms Arroyo in 2004.

German was in the Palace during the final days of the Estrada administration and hopes to fare better this time in the Arroyo administration.

DEFENDING the heavily damaged Comelec, its chair Benjamin Abalos holds a press conference at the Wack-Wack Golf and Country Club to push for the ARMM elections on Aug. 8, to answer critics that the poll body must first be revamped before it can conduct credible elections. LYN RILLON

Comelec directors to file libel cases vs Sandra Cam

THE COMMISSION on Elections regional directors for the Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, Bicol and Central Visayas regions during the 2004 polls elections are filing libel cases against "jueteng" witness Cam for besmirching their reputation, poll body chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said.

"It's really sad and unfortunate because it's all over the papers. And to think that it was brought out by someone who was not even present. The witness has not surfaced yet but in the meantime, our reputation has already been ruined by a hearsay," Abalos said.

Asked if the Comelec would still conduct an inquiry into the allegations that election officials received payoffs, Abalos said the cases to be filed against Cam would suffice for the time being, adding that the courts would serve as a proper forum to hear the accusations.

The Comelec may conduct its own investigation should the real witness to the alleged bribery come out, he added.

Abalos and some of the directors linked the exposé to moves to oust Ms Arroyo and pressure the Comelec leadership to resign.

GMA invokes rights . . .

From page A1

Zamboanga Peninsula, said in a memorandum to Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. that she was ready "to submit myself, my properties, bank account, all of my resources to a thorough check."

"I have rendered service to this commission and to the country with all honesty, dedication and competence in my 14 years of service," Flores said.

She added: "My family lives a simple life, we have never experienced being rich, we do not know how to be and we do not intend to be rich through illegal and immoral means. We have survived and will continue surviving even without the P2 million Ms Sandra Cam has accused us of receiving."

Helping 'kumare'

In a statement issued by her lawyer, presidential "kumare" and Pampanga board member Lilia Pineda called the accusations against "dastardly lies."

Pineda, wife of long-suspected gambling lord Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda, also threatened "jueteng" informant Sandra Cam with libel action for claiming that Pineda gave Comelec officials P2 million each in Ms Arroyo's presence during a meeting at the President's house in La Vista subdivision.

Lawyer Roberto Abad said the only assistance his client gave Ms Arroyo was when she campaigned for the President among her friends and constituents in Pampanga.

"Mrs. Pineda never meddled in national politics and did not have contact with any regional director of the Comelec," the statement said. "Her family is engaged in legitimate business and has never used jueteng money to support anyone's candidacy."

The statement was sent to the INQUIRER and other Pampanga reporters through e-mail on Thursday. Abad confirmed its authenticity when the INQUIRER finally reached him yesterday.

Asked where Lilia Pineda was, Abad said: "I don't know. I only spoke with her on the phone."

Pineda took a leave of absence from her provincial post two weeks ago and went to the United States to attend to her businesses, according to Pampanga Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao.

An INQUIRER source, a politician, said Pineda arrived last week from the United States. She has been elusive to the media, refusing to take calls and interviews.

"Although [Pineda] is a *kumare* of Ms Arroyo, she is probably just one of her hundreds of *kumares* all over the country. Their contacts during the last elections were limited to Pampanga politics," the statement said.

Abad said Cam "peddled her lies based on hearsay information."

Affidavits, letters

Abalos released to reporters affidavits, letters, press statements and official memoranda which he said were sent to him by 12 still active and four retired regional directors who felt alluded to in the bribery scandal.

The directors called on anyone who witnessed the alleged bribery to come out and tell what he knew.

Lilia, who?

They also denied ever knowing Lilia Pineda. Some said they had never even met the President in person.

Cam has cited an unnamed witness to the supposed La Vista meeting as saying that election officials each received P2 million from Pineda.

INQUIRER informants identified the witness as defeated Isabela reelectionist Gov. Faustino Dy Jr., who is now in California. A younger brother of Dy, Alicia Mayor Napoleon Dy, said he spoke to his brother on Friday and the elder Dy told him that "whatever those reports are, they are not true."

The denials of the Comelec directors ranged from declarations that the report was "untrue and a big lie," "sweeping and malicious," "ridiculous and unfair," to "unfounded, unsubstantiated and hearsay" and "bereft of any factual basis."

Reputations soiled

Some said their reputations had been "irreversibly damaged." Others said the accusation merely tended to destroy the integrity of the directors and Comelec as a whole.

Ilocos Region director Romeo Lobregat said it "obviously [was] intended to sow confusion and invites more contempt and disrespect upon the commission."

"It would be best for Ms Cam not to drag innocent and well-meaning people who have nothing to do with her crusade. Otherwise, she will be unmasked as a liar," said retired Central Luzon director Hilario Sagun Jr.

The acting National Capital Region director in last year's elections, Esmeralda Amora-Ladra, said Cam "should not be allowed to malign any person or career public officials like us and a public institution such as Comelec without being prosecuted or at least, investigated."

Lie detector test

Retired Davao region director Lirio Joquino said she was willing to be subjected to a lifestyle check, undergo a lie detector test and appear in any official investigation to show the accusations were baseless.

Joquino said regional directors could hardly influence the results of an election.

"During elections, regional election directors are far removed from any canvassing activity, only monitoring the progress of the electoral exercise and ready to address whatever contingencies that may arise in their area of jurisdiction. During canvassing, the Board of Canvassers reigns supreme," she said.

Directors, Comelec commissioners or even the election body's chair has any control or influence over the board, the former director added.

Lifestyle checks

This was echoed by the retired director of Socksargen, Clarita Callar, who said, "As a regional director, [I] did not chair nor was [I] a member of any canvassing board. Neither did [I] have any hand in the preparation of the certificate of canvass and proclamation."

Northern Mindanao director Bernardita Cabacungan called on the Comelec to investigate the allegation and conduct lifestyle checks on all top election officials.

Southern Tagalog director Juanito Icaro countered that if he did receive P2 million, then Ms Arroyo would not have lost heavily in all 10 provinces of the region. As it turned out, actor Fernando Poe Jr. beat Ms Arroyo by more than a million votes in Southern Tagalog.

The retired region director of Caraga could not issue any statement as he was currently confined in a hospital.

The ARMM director's denial was based on the fact that the regional office was not created until August 2004.

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Mike Arroyo back today

From page A1

Details about Llora's death were not available.

The Arroyos are also observing their 37th wedding anniversary on Tuesday.

The source said the First Gentleman spent at least three nights in Hong Kong, weighing the repercussions of his homecoming.

Arroyo, accused by "jueteng" informants of taking gambling payoffs, left the country to help ease political pressure on his wife following calls for her to resign over allegations of her involvement in election cheating.

The Arroyos had said the allegations against them were politically motivated. The President made no reference to her husband being Hong Kong when she was interviewed yesterday on CNN and asked about his departure for the US.

World-class, 5-star boat . . .

From page A1

senger ferry that the FBMA—and the Philippines—had ever produced.

When FBMA Marine Inc. won the bid to construct the $15-million Vlieland over bigger transport companies from around the world, it put the Philippines firmly on the shipbuilding map.

Aboitiz group

"When you construct a ship like this (following exact specifications of its client Doeksen) and it performs well, word goes around that the Philippines can make world-class ships," Aboitiz told the INQUIRER.

FBMA has been showing what the Filipino can do in international shipbuilding since 1997.

From the first 50-knot Tricat it built that year, it has delivered high-speed ferry boats and specialist work boats, in partnership with international ship designers, to buyers in Hong Kong, Korea and the United Kingdom.

FBMA started as a joint venture between the Aboitiz group and FBM Babcock Marine of the United Kingdom, and became a wholly-owned Aboitiz company in October last year.

It has booked $74.408 million in exports since it started operations.

Aside from the Vlieland, FBMA's shipbuilders in Cebu have produced the following: a 180-passenger catamaran for the Shin Han Shipping Co. in South Korea; 25-meter, high-speed training boats for the British Ministry of Defense; a 32-vehicle ferry currently operating in the Bahamas; Supercats operated by the Aboitiz Transport System Corp.

FBMA president Doug Border told the INQUIRER that the company's most exciting projects in the pipeline were the two high-speed offshore crew boats under contract with Lockheed Martin, the world's biggest defense contractor, costing $9.3 million each.

Based on the same technology in Navy vehicles, the offshore crew boats would be constructed using the most advanced ship design to comfortably ferry crew to and from the oil installations in the Mexican gulf even on rough seas.

More orders

The successful delivery of the two ships next year was expected to further cement FBMA and the Philippines' position in the shipbuilding industry.

"Going forward, we want to capture more of the market. Our biggest competitors are Australia and Europe, but we are already eating into their market," Border said.

Aboitiz said that with more orders coming in, FBMA could become one of the world's leading players in the shipbuilding market in four to five years.

"We are doing all we can to foster, promote and manage success. And we remain committed to roll out and invest more, taking the long-term view of things," Aboitiz said.

"And yes, the Filipino can and deserves equal access to opportunities," he added.

Blasts rock Cotabato, Koronadal cities; 4 wounded

KORONADAL CITY — Two separate explosions hit Cotabato City and this city yesterday, wounding at least four persons, including a 13-year old female student.

At about 3 p.m., an improvised explosive went off at the gate of the public market here, according to Gov. Daisy Fuentes.

Fuentes said three persons were injured in the blast.

She said that two other explosives were found near the area where the explosion took place.

"So we ordered the vendors to vacate the area," she said.

Fuentes said that police and military bomb experts have detonated the two other bombs.

Fuentes said the explosion came after police received a bomb threat.

She said as early as 11 a.m., the police were already in red alert status because of the bomb threat.

In Cotabato City, nine days before the holding of the August 8 polls in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), an improvised bomb went off at the ARMM compound, wounding a 13-year female student, police said.

Insp. Joey Ampong told the INQUIRER that the blast occurred near the regional library building around 11 a.m.

He said the student, whom he did not identify, was injured in the neck but was in stable condition.

"We are still trying to determine the kind of explosive used. The perpetrators planted it hours before the incident. I think it was not meant to hurt anybody because it was left in non-populated area," Ampong said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio and Joffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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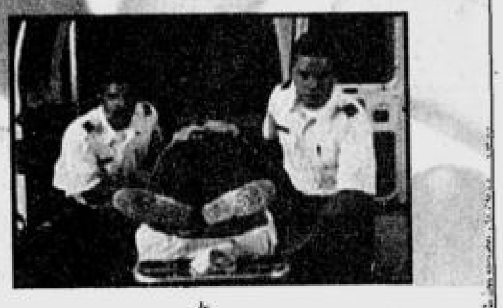

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Suicide bomber kills 40 Iraqi army recruits

MOSUL, Iraq—A suicide bomber blew himself up among a group of Iraqi army recruits in northern Iraq on Friday, killing 40 people and wounding 57.

The US military said the blast killed 10 Iraqi civilians and wounded 20.

Police said the attack occurred outside a municipal building in Rabia, a town 80 km northwest of Mosul, Iraq's third largest city and a focus of an 18-month-old insurgent campaign against US-backed Iraqi security forces.

The al-Qaida group in Iraq said in an Internet statement it carried out the attack.

"A lion in a martyrdom brigade of al-Qaida in Iraq carried out a heroic operation in Rabia with an explosive belt. He entered a center of National Guard volunteers, shouted 'there is no god but God,' then exploded," said the statement posted on an Islamist site often used by militants in Iraq. It was not possible to authenticate the claim.

Separately, American and Iraqi forces killed nine guerrillas, five of them Syrians, in a small village northwest of the capital, a US military statement said.

The guerrillas had fired rocket-propelled grenades and small arms at a joint US and Iraqi patrol, prompting US forces to respond with an air strike, the statement said.

US and Iraqi forces are struggling to contain a Sunni Arab-led insurgency bent on toppling the Shi'ite-led government.

The insurgents, made up of foreign fighters, religious militants and loyalists of toppled leader Saddam Hussein, have kept up a relentless campaign of suicide bombings, shootings and assassinations that have killed thousands of people.

Hours after the blast in Rabia, a car bomb intended for a police patrol killed two Iraqi civilians in Baghdad, police said. A car bomb attack on a US military patrol in Mosul killed a child and wounded 11 civilians, police said.

Witnesses said the car bomb targeted a man selling alcohol on a cart. Islamic militants have previously attacked sellers of alcohol, which is banned under Islam.

In recent months, Iraq's Shi'ite and Kurdish leaders have succeeded in drawing more Sunni Arabs into the political process in a bid to defuse the insurgency.

After staging a six-day boycott over the killing of a colleague, prominent Sunni Arabs resumed work on the committee drawing up Iraq's constitution this week, a process seen as the best chance for a peaceful solution to the fighting.

But the violence has continued unabated and Sunni Arab emotions boiled over on the streets of Baghdad on Friday, amid fears that tensions between the Sunni and Shi'ite communities could spill over into civil war.

On Friday night, gunmen killed Faisal al-Khaz'ali, the leader of a Shi'ite tribe, in southern Baghdad, a Ministry of Interior source said.

The assassination followed a protest by over 1,000 Sunnis who accused the government of pursuing sectarian policies and torturing and killing in "the new Iraq of fire and steel."

Reuters

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Pineapple	1/2 cup	1.00
Broccoli	1/2 cup	2.00
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Carrots	1/2 cup	1.50
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Astronomer finds 10th planet in solar system

LOS ANGELES—A California astronomer has discovered what he believes is the 10th planet in our solar system, a group of Nasa-funded researchers said on Friday.

The new planet, known as 2003UB313, has been identified as the most distant object ever detected orbiting the sun, California Institute of Technology astronomer Michael Brown said.

Brown and colleagues Chad Trujillo and David Rabinowitz have submitted a name for the planet to the International Astronomical Union and are confident it will be designated a planet. Brown did not reveal the proposed name.

The procedure for approving the new planet is somewhat hazy as no new bodies have received that designation since Pluto was discovered in 1930, Brown said.

"We hope that it's fairly noncontroversial among those who believe Pluto is a planet," Brown said. "I would say get out your pens and start rewriting the textbooks today." The planet is located about 14.5 billion km from the sun and is about one and a half times the size of Pluto, the researchers said.

The new planet orbits the sun once every 560 years and is now at its farthest point from Earth, he said. In about 280 years, the planet will be as close as Neptune, he said.

Like Pluto, the object's surface is believed to be predominantly methane, but its size—about 2,700 km in diameter—qualifies it as a planet, Brown said. Earth is about 12,700 km in diameter.

The new planet is believed to be part of the Kuiper Belt, a large ring of icy objects that orbit beyond Neptune and are believed to be remnants of the material that formed the solar system.

Brown said the new planet was detected in January by the Samuel Oschin Telescope at the Palomar Observatory near San Diego.

The Caltech team, funded in part by Nasa, had been waiting to announce the find until they had completed their studies, but changed their minds after a hacker threatened to go public with their data, Brown said.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Bird flu in Siberia

MOSCOW—Russia's agricultural ministry said Friday that cases of bird flu virus found in Siberia's Novosibirsk region were of the deadly H5N1 type that can be transmitted to humans. "During investigation of pathological material from sick birds from Novosibirsk province, the bird flu virus of type A, sub-type H5N1, was found, suggesting the need for quarantine measures on a wider scale," the ministry said in a statement. Suspicions were first aroused when wild and domestic birds began falling sick in the province on July 11.

AFP

Death toll in India nears 900

MUMBAI—Deaths from India's record monsoon climbed to near 900 Friday, police said, as rescuers unearthed more bodies from landslides and villagers stampeded after hearing rumors of a tsunami. "We are now confirming that the number of dead in Mumbai is 370," said A.N. Roy, police chief of India's western commercial hub. "As far as I know, the total number of dead in the state (including Mumbai) is well over 800." At least 513 people have been killed elsewhere in Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the capital, according to B.M. Kulkarni of the state police, taking the total number of confirmed deaths to 883.

AFP

Discovery scanned for damage

HOUSTON—The space shuttle Discovery crew examined damage to the craft's heat shield with laser scanners on Friday while Nasa's chief on the ground expected engineers would quickly fix the fuel tank problems that have again grounded the fleet. "We were actually quite surprised to hear we had some large pieces of debris fall off the external tank," Discovery commander Eileen Collins said during the crew's first in-flight interview. "It wasn't what we had expected." During Discovery's launch on Tuesday on Nasa's first shuttle mission since the 2003 Columbia disaster, a chunk of foam nearly as large as the one responsible for downing Columbia fell off Discovery's fuel tank.

Reuters

Bush to bypass Senate on Bolton

WASHINGTON—President George W. Bush plans to bypass the US Senate and install John Bolton as US ambassador to the United Nations, officials said. Bush can go around the Senate and give Bolton a "recess appointment" when the Senate begins its August recess this weekend. Bolton would be able to serve until January 2007, when a new Congress is sworn in. Two US officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it was Bush's intent to make a recess appointment. An announcement could come as early as Monday.

Reuters

4 suspected London bombers arrested

LONDON—British police are questioning four prime suspects behind failed London bomb attacks, aiming to pin down any links to a wider network that they fear could strike again.

On Friday, police swooped on a housing estate in west London, arresting two men who identified themselves as Ibrahim Muktar Said and Ramzi Mohammed.

They were forced to strip to show they had no explosives strapped to them before being taken away.

Italian police arrested a third man in Rome who was named as Hussain Osman. He will be extradited back to Britain having left the country after the attacks.

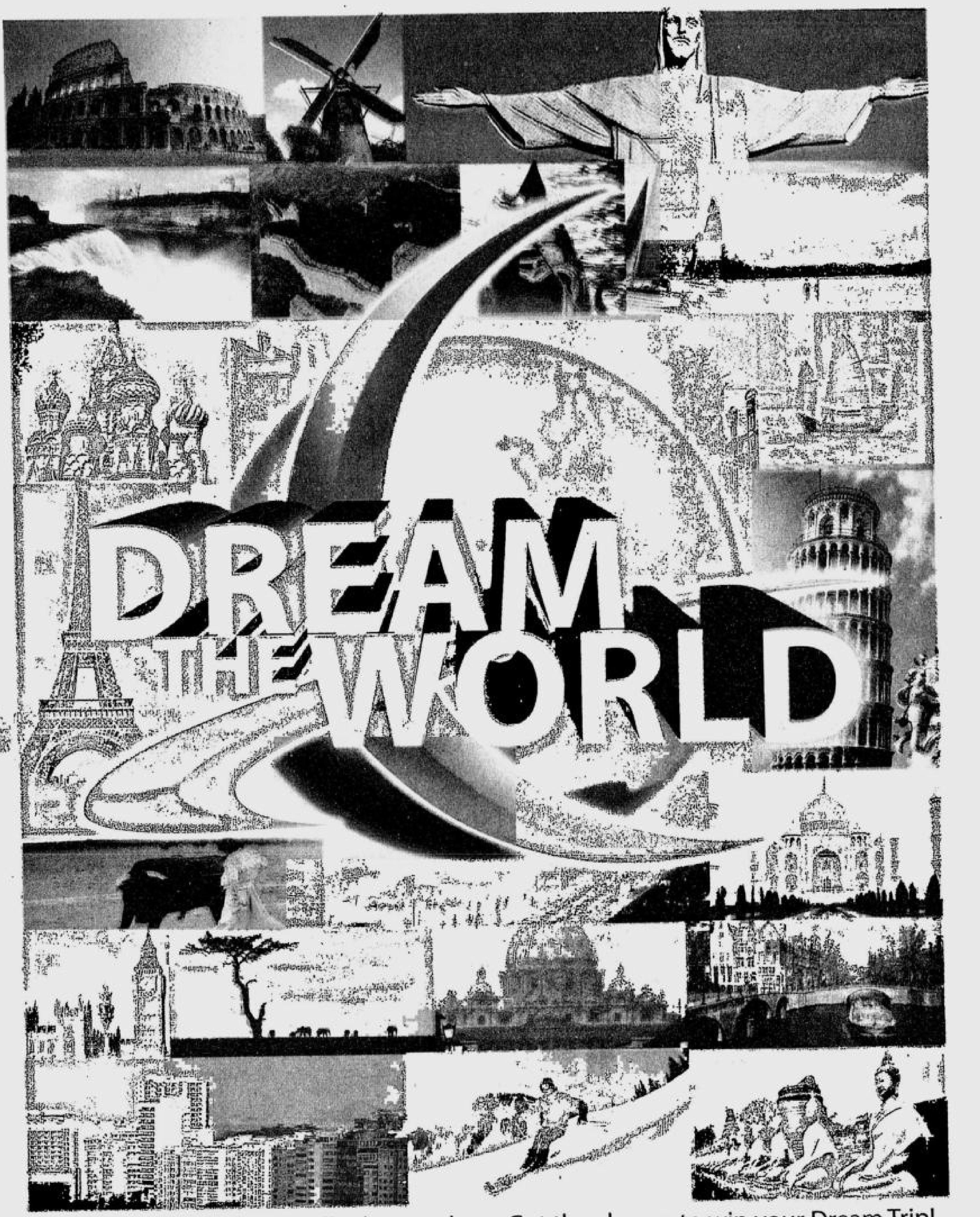
Police arrested Yasin Hassan Omar, suspected of trying to explode a bomb on the underground, earlier this week.

Police sources said they believed they had rounded up all four men suspected of trying to explode bombs on London's transport system last week.

The abortive attacks on July 21 took place two weeks after four British Muslims killed themselves and 52 others in blasts on three underground trains and a bus in London.

"The investigation ... is still continuing. It is dynamic and it is wide-ranging," antiterrorist police chief Peter Clarke told reporters.

Reuters



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OPINION

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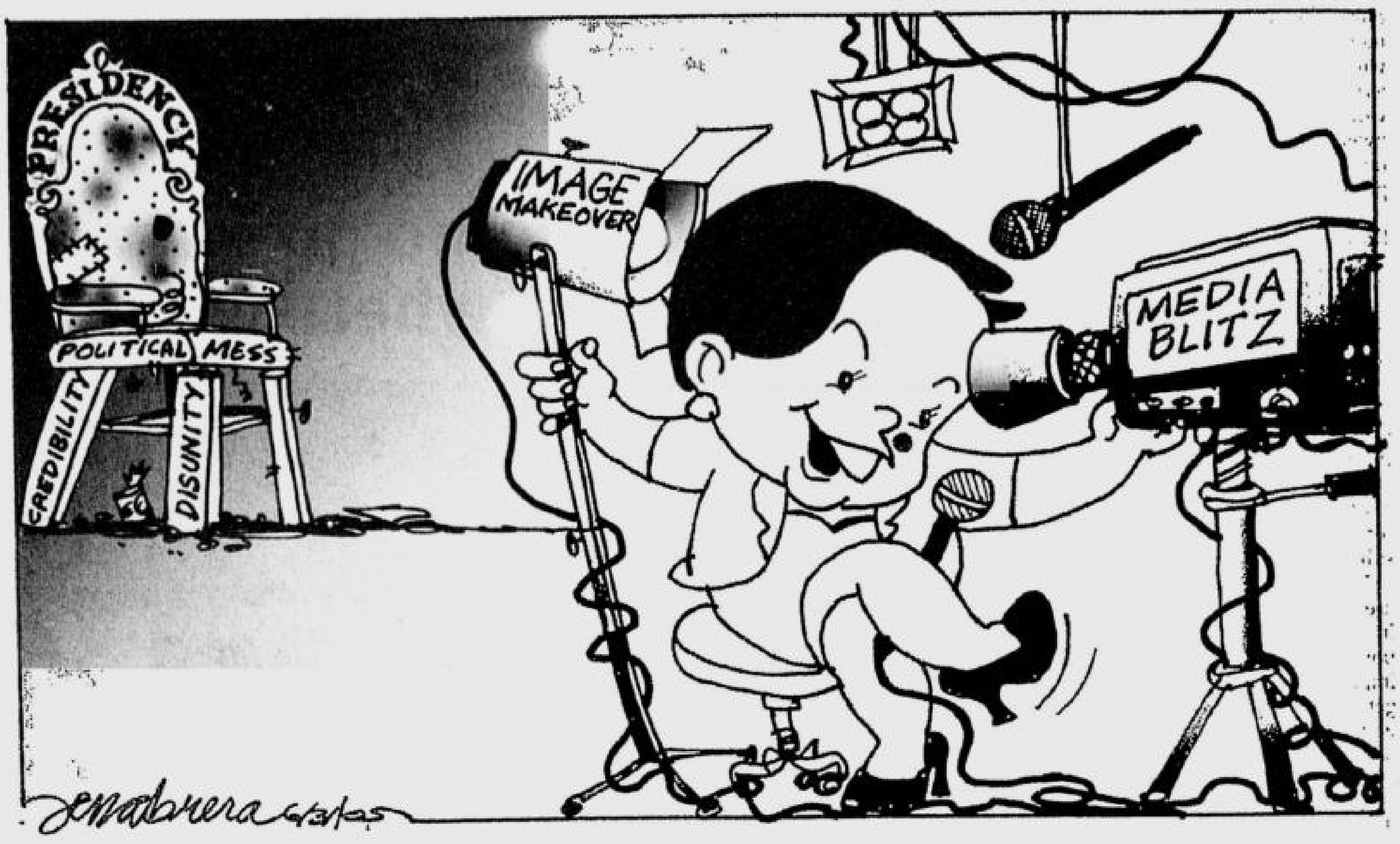

Join the issue

IS there an ideal time to amend the Constitution? The way opposition leaders have spoken out against the very notion of a "great debate" on Charter change, one would think that the answer is a categorical Yes. The real answer, however, is more complicated than the opposition makes it seem.

EDITORIAL

If in fact the ideal conditions were met—let's assume these include the lack of economic uncertainty, the lack of a political crisis, and the lack of a leadership suspected of hiding ulterior motives—the drive to improve the Constitution would itself lose momentum. The reason is elementary: If the system can give rise to such conditions in the first place, why fix it?

Not that anything resembling an ideal state of conditions would ever be reached. Constitutional change will always have economic costs or depend on political tradeoffs; there will always be some kind of economic or political constraints. Not least, the entire political class, not just its leadership, will always be suspected of acting out of self-interest.

The argument that we should postpone the debate on Constitutional amendments to better times, therefore, has more leaks than the Titanic. There are no ideal conditions for Charter change.

By definition, pressure for a constitutional amendment reflects an existing problem in the constitutional order. The more severe the problem, the more acute the pressure.

Has the country come to such a pass? The most discussed options for dealing with today's political crisis—from a revolutionary government to impeachment-plus-a-Truth-Commission—suggest that such a problem already exists. At the very least, the number of Filipinos who may be willing to try something other than business-as-usual implies that there is, in fact, a constituency for Charter change.

But the opposition's real argument is more immediate: The debate on Charter change is part of President Macapagal-Arroyo's strategy to hold on to power—to avoid impeachment by complicating the work of Congress, to forestall resignation by designing a so-called graceful exit.

In this view, to take part in the debate would be to play the President's game; it would be to play the role of an accomplice in a new crime, that of the mother of all cover-ups.

To which we can only say: The opposition should try less drama and more imagination.

Yes, Charter change can be a trap, in the exact same way that the impeachment process can be a trap too: that is, if anti-Arroyo lawmakers see themselves as mice rather than men.

The "terrible sword" of impeachment is deliberately unwieldy; it was designed to be unsheathed only with difficulty. That it is difficult to use is not an excuse for the minority to avoid it; in fact, the constitutional provisions on impeachment specifically allow the minority to override the majority. As the case of President Joseph Estrada in November 2000 proved, the numbers game could be a trap for the majority too.

Charter change will perhaps be an even more complicated process. Senate resistance to any fast-tracking of constitutional amendments is formidable; but as the Estrada impeachment case also proved, public pressure and the weight of evidence can turn any numbers game around.

That is the rationale behind the President's so-called media blitz. This permanent campaign has been received only as an attempt to make over Ms Arroyo's image and raise her survey ratings. But it is also an initiative to make the case for Charter change.

The fact that Charter change is now the topic of discussion in many parts of the country is proof of the presidency's power to set the national agenda. The President's bully pulpit may have sustained some damage in the last two months, but it is still largely intact.

It is incumbent on the opposition, therefore, to take part in the discussion. Engagement is the only way they can influence the agenda or prevent the President from monopolizing it.

If they refuse to do the necessary work—of educating the public, for instance, that federalism does not necessarily require a parliamentary form of government or that a parliamentary system does not need to be unicameral—they will effectively be ceding the battleground to the President.

President Arroyo's Sona

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE SONA last Monday was a non-event. As drama, it was droll. As a political statement, it said nothing. As a confrontation with the issues of the day, it was a dud. I expected President Macapagal-Arroyo to say something significant, even challenging, but she was as tame as a kitten and no more presidential than a bureau director.

The affair was more of a fashion show, with the ladies resplendent in their colorful gowns and the gentlemen in their expensive barongs. Only former President Fidel V. Ramos came in coat and tie, as if to strike a different superior mood. The military came in droves and in uniforms as austere as their faces. They were there to show that the Armed Forces were solidly behind their commander-in-chief.

The President had a well-orchestrated claque under the direction of Speaker Jose de Venecia. When he applauded, the members of his Rainbow Coalition also applauded. Where he was particularly pleased with what the President said, he did not merely applaud but rose to applaud. His obedient followers imitated him like so many robots because Big Sister was speaking and everybody had to cheer.

Well, not everybody because there was Senate President Franklin Drilon sitting glumly in his chair with not a sign of approval. He was a striking contrast to his co-presiding officer in the joint session who was beside himself with satisfaction. The two represented the opposite sides of the present political spectrum where several weeks ago they were an amiable twosome supporting President Arroyo.

The foreign guests, from the diplomatic corps and the business community who had come unavoidably to honor official invitation, courteously watched the charade of members of Congress, especially the House of Representatives, exhibiting their vassalage to Malacañang and their Speaker. The senators were more dignified and conceivably would not have followed their leader if Drilon had also risen to applaud.

There were those, of course, who sincerely admired the President and believed that what she was saying deserved their accolade. However, not many shared the sentiment of the small but valiant group that enthusiastically supported their idol.

How about the diehard opponents of President Arroyo who were even then already finalizing the machinery of impeachment against her? I suppose that they kept silent out of respect for the speaker where otherwise they would have responded with dismissive boos. I did not hear their disapproval as they sat peevishly like a captive audience. They were probably already preparing in their minds their adverse comments for delivery to the media.

There were reports that they had planned to boycott the Sona but except for a few stalwart oppositionists, they dutifully attended the unwelcome ordeal, also in fashionable attire like their majority colleagues but without their festive disposition. And they grimly stayed, like unwilling masochists until the President had finished her speech, without causing the threatened disturbance.

I imagine that there must have been a secret agreement among them to walk out as they had promised once President Arroyo mentioned some issue that would incite their displeasure.

Perhaps they had agreed to do this on signal from their leader for their dramatic withdrawal that would rate headlines the following day. But this expected move did not happen because it was not provoked but in fact tactically avoided by the cautious President.

They, and in fact the general public, expected Ms Arroyo to speak about such problems of her administration as corruption and election irregularities. She prudently chose not to discuss them. People wanted her to defend herself from the Garci tape charges and her alleged involvement in the *jueteng* scandal. She wisely declined to do so and correctly decided that these were not proper subjects in the Sona.

Instead she spoke with high praise of the accomplishments of her administration, which many did not believe. She pointed to our economic progress and even hopefully mentioned the peso-dollar exchange rate, which on that date was 55.89 to 1. She cited 30,000 school rooms established under her rule, but not the lack of chairs and textbooks for the students. She also said that peace and order had improved and insurgency in the south had "abated."

The Sona was the shortest in presidential history. It was long in praise of the President's claimed accomplishments but short in the discussion of current problems and her recommendations for their solution. It was as if President Arroyo was simply making the motions to comply with tradition and the constitutional requirement. She looked quite relieved when she concluded her speech.

The true state of the nation was narrated more truthfully in the rallies outside Congress for and against President Arroyo. These were the citizens speaking without the pomp of power and the habiliments of authority in the bold exercise of their freedom of expression. They were celebrating, with placards and platitudes, their "liberty to utter and to argue freely, according to conscience, above all liberties."

Pity the crowd

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a little boy who was asked to say a prayer before the evening meal. The boy looked at the food, then proceeded to eat. When his parents asked why he didn't pray, the boy answered: "I already prayed for this food at lunchtime. They are leftovers!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 4, 13-21) Jesus fed the crowd of 5,000 men, after which they had lots of leftover food. In the beginning, there were only five loaves of bread and two fishes. After Jesus blessed the bread and the fish, there was more than enough food for everyone. A miracle? Yes, but it was more than a miracle. Jesus showed that the real miracle in that gathering was the miracle of sharing—that if people share, there will be enough for everyone. Wonder why a big number of our people live below the poverty line? That's because a very select few have not really learned to share.

* * *

Jesus was moved with pity for the crowd. Have our rich people really seen the poverty around them? Have our government officials and leaders really seen the suffering of our people? Are their hearts not moved with pity? Do they still have hearts? The people are suffering, and what they need are leaders who have big hearts; not leaders who have big heads, big pockets and big mouths.

* * *

And so it was that sometime last week, there was a large gathering of thieves. They even invited their leader to address them. Guess what they discussed? The good of the people, the very people from whom they are stealing. They publicly announced their plans which they claimed would be beneficial to the people.

Pity the people. They are like sheep being led to the slaughter by the very men and women they elected to serve them. When will the lying, cheating, manipulation and slaughter end? When? When the leaders have learned to really pity the crowd.

* * *

For those who want power, for those who hold on to their wealth, for those who could not let go and let God, listen to these words of Martin Luther: "Many things I have tried to grasp and have lost. Those which I have placed in God's hands, I still have." May we all learn the basic lesson in life that nothing and no one stay forever. We are all passing by. No matter what we do, we bring nothing with us when we finally go, except the love that we have shared and given. I still cannot understand how much money one needs in this life for him to be satisfied and come to say "enough!"

* * *

There was a text message I received last week about a Filipino who was stopped at the gates of heaven. Upon checking his papers, St. Peter let him pass right away. When asked why, St. Peter was supposed to have said: "He is a Filipino. He had suffered enough already." Oftentimes, we joke about our sorry state as a people and as a nation, but there's nothing funny about a crowd of good-hearted, intelligent and hardworking people who can't take off from their poverty just because they are burdened by selfish politicians and government leaders. Pity the crowd. Pity the Filipino. How, oh Lord, how—and when, oh Lord, when—will we be delivered from our miseries?

* * *

I can't help but be edified by the Filipino "leftover mentality" so evident when we share our leftover food with our guests in the spirit of generosity so that when they go home they can bring some with them. However, I am saddened when I see Filipinos practice leftover mentality by force of necessity and poverty, as when they scavenge leftover food from the garbage. One can't help but ask: why do others have so much while others have so little?

* * *

Perhaps our leaders can learn from Jesus on how he handled the crowd. First of all, He had compassion and pity for the crowd. He approached the crowd with the intent to serve them, not to use or manipulate them. Second, He had the moral authority to order His subordinates to give them food. In other words, He was credible. Third, He was able to manage the crowd and got them to sit down and His subordinates to distribute the bread and fish. Note that first came Jesus' compassion; second, His credibility; and His know-how only came third. We ask our leaders to follow Jesus' example. Start with the heart, and everything else will follow.

* * *

St. Augustine has a beautiful definition of peace: "Serenity of mind, simplicity of heart, tranquility of soul." This is my wish for all of us as we go through life, and as we go through whatever crisis in life. The basic denominator for peace in our minds, in our hearts and in our souls is righteousness. If we are righteous then nothing should or can disturb our peace. It is in knowing that we have done and are doing our very best for God and for His people; that we can "speak our truth quietly and clearly" and experience that peace which "the world cannot give nor take away."

* * *

Today is Fil-Mission Sunday. Let us pray and remember our Filipino missionaries who have left home, country and family to spread the gospel. We don't have much, but we share. Let us continue to pray for and support our Filipino missionaries in foreign missions.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, give us leaders who have compassionate hearts and who know how to pity the crowd. Amen.

How to help our country

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

There's a booklet making the rounds in Metro Manila, that every Filipino who loves his country should get hold of and read, and hopefully put the points it raises into practice, in order to help our nation. It doesn't dwell on a shift to a parliamentary form of government or a federal system, which our politicians are so fond of talking about as the answer to our problems, or as a way of providing a graceful exit for someone. It doesn't dwell on the need for an expanded value-added tax, which our financial geniuses have been proposing as the answer to our fiscal deficits.

"Twelve (12) Little Things Every Filipino Can Do To Help Our Country," by Alexander Ledesma Lacson, may be a "voice in the wilderness"; but as Fr. Ruben Tanseco, S.J. puts it, what Alex proposes are "very concrete, practical and doable" actions for us ordinary Filipinos. And the best part is that these 12 things don't need to be debated upon by our congressmen and senators, reviewed by a bicameral conference committee and finally signed by the President before they can be part of the laws of the land, which may or may not be complied with because our Supreme Court can "TRO" the whole thing; and it may take time to resolve the issue, which then would still be the subject of a possible motion for reconsideration.

What is needed to get these 12 things moving are leaders in our homes, barangays, educational institutions and civic organizations who will be the point men and women in the dissemination and implementation of these "twelve little things." Forget about our political leaders. They're too busy with Charter change or electoral reforms—the sort of activities that will ensure their continued stay in office or that of their children and relatives.

A simple enumeration of these "twelve little things" will not do justice to the work of Alex. You've got to read the whole text, but I shall try to compress a few lines for some of the items mentioned.

1. **Follow traffic rules**—Why is that the most important? The answer is simple. Traffic rules are the simplest of our laws. If we learn to follow them, it will be the lowest form of national discipline which we can develop. Since it is totally without monetary cost, it should be easy for us to comply with, and therefore should provide a good start.

2. **Whenever you buy or pay for anything, always ask for an official receipt**—If a seller does not issue an official receipt when you buy a product, the seller may or may not remit the tax to the government. Without an O.R., there is no record of the sale transaction, and the tax that you already paid may not be remitted to the BIR.

3. **Do not buy smuggled goods. Buy local, buy Filipino**—It may not be good economics to buy 100 percent local products. What I suggest is for us to take a "50-50" buying attitude. This means that we must develop the attitude of using 50 percent of our budget for local products and the other 50 percent for imported choices.

4. **When you talk to others, especially foreigners, speak positively of our race and our country**—This is best addressed to the rich and the middle class in our country, who have contact with the outside world. It is they who talk to, dine or deal with foreigners either here or abroad. It is what they say and do which creates impressions about us among foreigners.

5. **Respect your traffic officer, policeman, soldier and other public servants**—There is nothing like the power of respect. It makes a person proud. It makes one feel honorable. At the same time, courtesy to others is good manners. It is class and elegance and kindness. It is seeing the value and dignity in the other man. It is, in fact, a mark of a most profound education.

6. **Do not litter. Dispose your garbage properly. Segregate. Recycle. Conserve.**— As Louis Armstrong says in his song: "I see trees of green, red roses, too, I see them bloom for me and you and I think to myself, what a wonderful world."

7. **Support your church.**

8. **During elections, do your solemn duty.**—Honesty, more than a masteral or doctorate degree, is what gives credibility. And credibility is essential because it is a leader's link to the people. It is what makes the people look to one direction, follow a common vision, and perform a uniform act. In short, credibility is what makes people follow the leader.

9. **Pay your employees well.**—No exercise is better for the human heart than to reach down and lift someone else up. This truly defines a successful life. For success is the sum, not of our earthly possessions, but of how many times we have shown love and kindness to others.

10. **Pay your taxes.**—In 2003, P83 billion was collected from individual income taxes. But 91 percent of this amount came from salaried workers from the government and private sector, people who had no choice since their income taxes were withheld mandatorily. Only P7 billion of the P83 billion came from businessmen and professionals like doctors, lawyers, accountants and architects, among others.

11. **Adopt a scholar or adopt a poor child.**—You can make a difference in the future of our country by making a difference in the world of children.

12. **Be a good parent. Teach your kids to follow the law and to love our country.**—Today's children will someday rule and lead this world. But whether they will be bad rulers or good leaders will depend largely on how we raise them today. Our future is in the hearts and minds of our children.

We need to be reminded every now and then of certain values in our society. Lacson's book serves this purpose and should be mandatory reading in our classrooms.

Freedom from censors

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IT'S the worst movie I've seen in years, which makes this review and defense of "Wedding Crashers" a most unpleasant task. I don't think seeing the movie in full would have made any difference to our viewing experience, but the many cuts only made "Wedding Crashers" that much more incomprehensible and detestable.

For one, the seduction scene between Jane Seymour, who plays the mother of the female love interest, and Owen Wilson, as one of the pair of losers who gatecrash weddings for the free booze, free food and freer sex, was excised entirely. This happens to be the scene used almost exclusively to promote the movie in all the talk shows aired on cable channels in previous weeks. So, to suddenly find it missing from the movie was disconcerting, to say the least. I mean, what were the censors afraid of? The scene had been aired on freaking TV for days on end! It's not as if teens—the movie is rated PG-13—would have been scandalized by the sight of the naked back of Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman!

Other deleted scenes involved a, uhhm, nut-crushing episode between Vince Vaugn, the other half of the wedding crasher team, and another bridesmaid at the bride's family's dinner table. I don't think the audience missed much, but it was annoying, to say the least, to have to sit through garbled dialogue and jumpy editing. I want my money back!

I know the MTRCB only "rates" movies and no longer cuts them, but I also know the reviewers are not above "suggesting" what scenes to delete to producers and distributors asking for a more favorable rating. I happen to think the movie, in its entirety, would have been suitable for a PG-13, so why couldn't the distributor have stuck to his guns and refused to mangle the movie? It's only a silly production, I know, but in this instance, the audience was decidedly shortchanged.

* * *

THERE are many reasons why the movie industry is dying, and I'm convinced heavy-handed censoring is one of them. It isn't just the film artists' freedom of expression and right to the integrity of their work that matter here, but also, to put it bluntly, customer satisfaction. Movie-goers have the right to see the movie its makers intended them to see, and which they had counted on seeing. Why should censors stand between them and the creators, imposing their own standards and morals on everybody else? It's utter contempt for the audience, that's what it is!

I remember my agitation when I went to watch "Sin City" at a mall theater. The movie was riddled with so many cuts the soundtrack was reduced to a herky-jerky background effect. What made it all the more annoying was that "Sin City" had already been rated "For Adults Only," so the cuts only meant the censors or the craven distributor didn't have enough trust or respect for an adult audience's sensibilities or maturity. We resolved to go out and look for a DVD just so we could see "Sin City," an innovative and challenging work, I might add, in its integral version.

And that's one reason people may be choosing to stay away from theaters these days. Why risk disappointment and annoyance at the hands of ham-handed censors when you can watch the movie in full on DVD, in the privacy of your home? It's not all the pirates' fault, you know.

* * *

THAT'S why I hope the censors keep their grubby hands away from the emerging alternative film market. I would dearly love to see the many brave and excellent films emerging from alternative digital film festivals hit the broader commercial film market. But if this means subjecting them to the ignorant, moralistic standards of the MTRCB, then perhaps remaining "small" and alternative would be best for the moment.

By the way, congratulations to the winners in the recent Cinemalaya Film Festival, which hopes to do for the Filipino independent film industry what the Sundance Festival has done for its American counterpart.

I'm particularly buoyed up by the victory of "Big Time" (reviewed earlier in this column), for best script, by director Mario Cornejo and my niece, "Monster" Jimenez. At the "Big Time" film showing at the CCP Little Theater, the venue was filled to the rafters by an appreciative audience. At the end of the movie, reported my sister-in-law and "Monster's" mother Coratec, "everyone left the theater beaming."

* * *

EVEN more impressive is the "Best Short Film" award for "Mansyon," another movie by Arkeofilms, the same outfit that produced "Big Time."

Written and directed by Joel Ruiz, "Mansyon" examines, in a little over 20 minutes, the shifts in the relationship of a married couple, Dolores (Roselyn Perez) and Ambo (Jess Evardone), who are hired as house-sitters for three months. At first reticent and reserved toward each other, the couple soon learn to open up and be more spontaneous as they revel in the luxuries afforded by the mansion and the autonomy they enjoy without the overbearing employer.

The movie says many things about class divisions and evolving relationships, but in a quiet, subdued and witty manner. It helps that Perez and Evardone display the humble and careworn demeanor of lifelong servants, while evincing the effects of their acts of quiet subversion in their facial expressions and body language.

One is all the more impressed with the young filmmakers' accomplishment, given their humble resources. "Mansyon" was filmed mainly in the home of Ruiz's parents and even in the garage of Jimenez's family home. With photography by Alma de la Peña and editing by Monster Jimenez, "Mansyon" is sumptuously lit and cleverly paced. The music by Paulo Tirol also gives the film emotional depth and meaning that no amount of additional dialogue could have accomplished.

Breaking the silence

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN HER 2005 State of the Nation Address, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo spoke of two nations—one experiencing vibrant economic growth, and another mired in endless political bickering. The political system, she said, must be reformed in order to ensure the economy's unimpeded growth. The vehicle for this is the shift to a federal parliamentary government via the fast route of a constituent assembly.

Whether this smart move buys her time remains to be seen. The force of inertia, the fear of chaos, the uncertainty of the alternatives, and the basic distrust of politicians—all these, for now, are working in Ms Arroyo's favor, notwithstanding the serious allegations of electoral fraud and corruption against her.

The situation we face is not unlike the wrenching dilemma that a wife faces when confronted by the painful discovery that her husband has raped his own daughters. To ask him to go away because of this unspeakable betrayal is to expose the family to economic insecurity and ruin, from which the members may not be able to recover. This is how countless families end up staying silent under a regime of mendacity, abuse and pretense. They abhor this person in their midst. But they fear the unknown even more. They invent all kinds of rationalizations to justify the arrangement. They seek comfort in the recurrent thought that he has been a good provider. They hang on to the hope that someday he may reform. It's a no-win situation for the mother. Only the thought of her children's future finally makes her break the silence.

Whether one is dealing with the pathology of a family or that of a nation, therapy must begin with a recognition that there is a problem, that an honest understanding of its complex roots is needed, and that an enduring cure can replace short-term palliatives. Tinkering with the Constitution at this time, to my mind, is like saying to a family that is recoiling from the blow of a betrayal, "I am sorry for this lapse in judgment, but let's move on. Let's take a holiday and play Scrabble."

If the problem were not so serious, a respite from bickering might work wonders. But when the problem concerns the trustworthiness of the head of the family himself, a holiday is nothing but a tawdry attempt at bribery and evasion.

Let us step back momentarily from the sordid situation in which the nation finds itself today, and try to make sense of this political crisis. I think the attempt would give us an insight into our political culture and the unjust social order it serves.

As our people become poorer, and as the government fails to respond to their growing needs, their demand for relief from poverty through patronage also becomes greater. The poor know that the politicians are exploiting them, and they respond to this by milking the politicians as long as they can. They would take the money and goods offered to them and proceed to vote for the people they truly admire, namely, their idols and folk heroes. The more their disenchantment with politicians grows, the more they turn for redemption to the celebrities they trust.

The phenomenon of Joseph Estrada was a product of this shift in our political life. His 1998 electoral victory would have been easily duplicated by Fernando Poe Jr. in 2004. Only a patronage machine of the kind mobilized by Ms Arroyo in 2004 would have been able to match the power of FPJ's popularity. But even such a well-funded machine has turned out to be insufficient. That is why the expertise of Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano was desperately sought. It was the main reason Ms Arroyo appointed him just a few weeks before the 2004 election, over the strenuous objections of people who knew the man's notorious credentials as a vote-padding operator.

Herein lies the crisis of the system of patronage politics: it can no longer survive without directly manipulating election results. What we have here is a virtual civil war between a dying traditional political class and a rising celebrity class that has discovered politics. Both of them feed on the needs and hopes of an impoverished nation. The middle class—with its battle cry of modernity and morality— is caught in the middle of this war, unable to cast its lot with either the discredited politics of patronage or the politics of mass-mediated charisma.

Also caught in the middle, but actively pressing for a progressive resolution of the crisis, is the Left. Its mass base has dwindled over the years, a casualty of the collapse of agriculture and the destruction of manufacturing. It now competes with the *trapos* for the large urban poor mass, and with the middle forces for the large student population in the major cities. A residual anti-communism from the Cold War era hampers its efforts at mobilization among the middle classes.

In truth, our formal institutions are too advanced for the kind of society we have. Our modern constitutions gave our people all the essential rights and liberties of free citizens in a mature democracy, but all these have meant nothing because of their persistent poverty, dependence and disorganization. Instead of being able to exercise their freedoms as citizens in a mature polity, they are trapped in the web of an obsolete patrimonial state controlled by an unreformed oligarchy. That is the root of the problem. As long as the economic vulnerability of the masses is not addressed as a prior objective, no change in the form of government will cure this problem.

This crisis is yet another chance to confront the lies that have marked the conduct of our national life. Break the silence, and free our children!

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Dysfunctional democracy

COMMENTARY

Denise Dresser

IN LATIN America, many people live with outstretched hands. Throughout the Hemisphere, paternalistic governments accustom people to receiving just enough to survive instead of participating in society. Across the region, politicians—whom writer Octavio Paz once referred to as "philanthropic ogres"—create clients instead of citizens, people who expect instead of demand.

Democratic Latin America limps sideways because it can't run ahead. There are too many entry barriers to the poor, the innovative and those without access to credit. There are too many walls erected against social mobility, competition and fairness in politics and business.

As a result, although Latin Americans can vote in a more democratic environment, they can't compete in a globalized world. Standards of living fall, incomes stagnate, hopes are dampened. So people start to march in the streets in Bolivia. Or believe the promises of the populist President Hugo Chávez in Venezuela. Or think about a return to the one-party past in Mexico. Or yearn to toss all the bums out—a sentiment that now seems to be taking root in Brazil. Or to vote with their feet, as in Mexico, where one of every five men between the age of 26 and 35 lives in the United States.

The region is both more democratic and more unequal than it was 10 years ago. United by the right to vote, Latin Americans remain divided by poverty. Latin America's economies are organized in a way that concentrates wealth in a few hands, but then leaves it untaxed, depriving governments of the resources needed to invest in their citizens' human capital.

Few governments in Latin America today have committed themselves to making such an investment. Instead, what Latin America's people get in the democratic era is a lot of public works—bridges, highways and massive structures that are designed to elicit short-term political support. In such projects, politicians manipulate and buy voters instead of truly representing them.

Such distorted priorities reflect a simple reality: democracy in Latin America seems incapable of dismantling old networks of clienteles and their traditional power-sharing arrangements. The old elites remain, locked inside their gated communities, fending off the poor, whom they have no incentive to empower, because plentiful cheap labor is so beneficial to those who employ it.

This means that broad swaths of the population don't finish high school, don't attend college and don't become empowered citizens of their own countries and the world. They remain at the service of socio-economic systems in which personal relationships matter more than qualifications and skill, in which positions are doled out on the basis of loyalty, not merit. Doors open to those with the right name and the right connections, and contracts are assigned with a slap on the back and the wink of an eye. State monopolies are sold to friends, who then become multi-billionaires, like Mexico's Carlos Slim.

Despite unrest in Bolivia, and populist politicians on the march, Latin America isn't on the verge of an economic meltdown. Indeed, the region remains largely stable. But that isn't enough to propel people from a *tortilla* factory to a software company, to create a broad middle class, and thus to assure social mobility.

Democracy may be working well enough in terms of free and fair elections. But something else is malfunctioning, and it transcends particular presidents, whether the president is Venezuela's populist Chávez, Mexico's conservative Fox, or Brazil's left-leaning Lula. It has to do with a deep, historic, structural reality.

Latin America's dysfunctional democracy is the result of a pattern of political and economic behavior that condemns Latin America to stagnation, independently of who governs. It stems from a pattern of postponed or partial structural reforms, of privatizations that benefit elites but hurt consumers.

This has sustained a model that places more value on the extraction of resources than on the education and empowerment of people. Bountiful resources such as oil are a bane for democracy in developing countries, because when a government gets the revenues it needs by selling oil, it doesn't need to collect taxes. Governments that don't need to broaden their tax base have few incentives to respond to the needs of their people.

Indeed, governments that are built on clientelism instead of citizenship don't need to respond at all. They produce skin-deep democracies in which people have a vote but don't really have a stake, in which wealth is increasingly concentrated and income disparities are harder to breach.

Worse still, such governments—whether authoritarian or nominally democratic—turn their citizens into recipients instead of participants. They create people who live with their hands held out instead of their heads held high.

Project Syndicate

Denise Dresser is professor of Political Science at the Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México.

THEY SAID

Somnambulist

"We're talking about the President who, at this point, is like a somnambulist, a person who's walking in a dream. She doesn't know which direction to take. Therefore, she's no longer capable of running the sailing ship of state."

—Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. on the ability of President Macapagal-Arroyo to govern

Normal humor

"It indicates that we are generally a humorous people. I don't think we should make a mountain [out] of a molehill because this is regularly done by Filipinos."

—Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye on the President's wiretapped conversation, a portion of which has been converted into a ring tone for mobile phones

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

PRIMER

Federal republic with parliamentary government

IN HER State of the Nation Address on July 25, President Macapagal-Arroyo said it was time to start the great debate on Charter change because the political system "has become a hindrance to progress."

To thunderous rounds of applause from local executives and members of the House of Representatives, the President said she preferred Congress convening into a constituent assembly because it was the quickest way to change the Constitution.

Ms Arroyo also said she favored a shift from the presidential-unitary to a parliamentary-federal form of government.

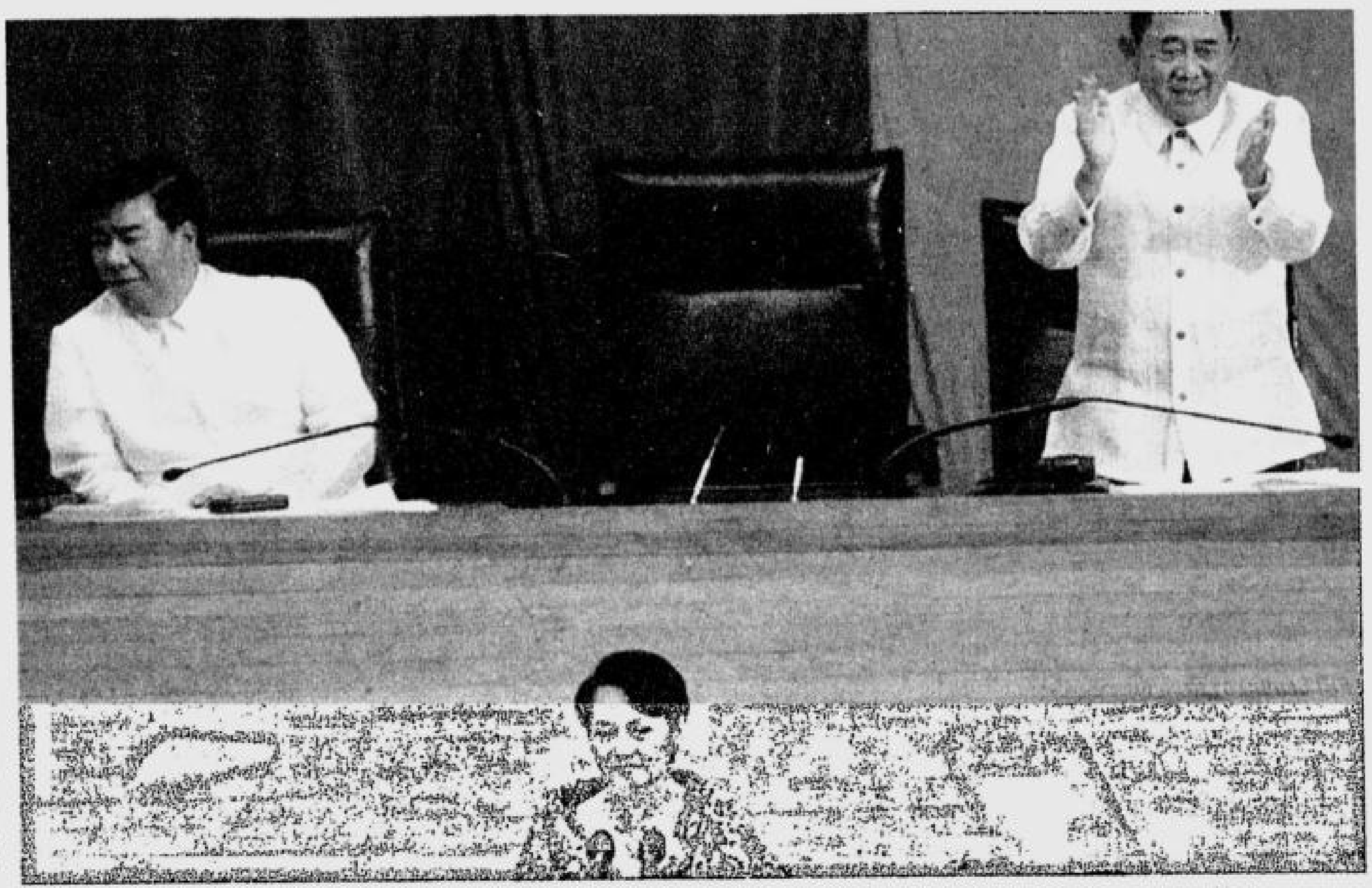
Two days after her Sona, Ms Arroyo announced she would form a consultative constitutional commission that will come up with proposed amendments to the 1987 Constitution to make the work of Congress easier.

She said she would ask Jose Abueva, former University of the Philippines president, to be a member of the commission.

The President's proposal to change the Constitution has been enthusiastically received by the House but it has run into a wall of opposition in the Senate. A number of senators believe that the proposed Charter change is a ploy to divert attention from the impeachment complaint against the President.

The unitary-presidential system is outmoded

By Jose Veloso Abueva



DIVIDED CONGRESS. Speaker Jose de Venecia supports President Macapagal-Arroyo's proposal to change the Charter through a constituent assembly, but Senate President Franklin Drilon opposes it. EDWIN BACASMAS

A federal republic with a parliamentary government is the main proposal for Charter change of our Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines (CMFP), a nation-wide civil society organization that began in 1999 as Lihok Pideral Mindanao. Under Rey Magno Teves, our CMFP has evolved a Draft Constitution for a Federal Republic of the Philippines with a Parliamentary Government by conducting studies and regional consultations.

We are sharing our analyses and proposed reforms with scholars and legislators, President Macapagal-Arroyo, local leaders, and many others. While we acknowledge the primacy of Congress in deciding the mode of Charter change, we consistently favor a constitutional convention to propose the changes for the people's ratification in a plebiscite.

Imperial Manila

In Spanish and American colonial times and since independence in 1946, the ruling class has exercised political power and decision-making through a highly centralized unitary system based in "Imperial Manila." Through the President, Congress, and the national bureaucracy, the national government in Metro Manila continues to dominate the provinces, cities and municipalities. Local governments and communities are still like colonies of a centralized power in spite of the constitutional policy of local autonomy and the enabling Local Government Code of 1991. Except that citizens and local leaders can influence the outcome of national elections.

In the extreme, from 1972 to 1986, the authoritarian regime of Ferdinand Marcos centralized state power in his person, close partisans and the military as instruments of domination, exploitation and oppression, and favored his family and cronies. He subordinated public institutions to his will and personal interest, and thus weakened and perverted them.

Although spectacular "people power" in the Edsa revolution overthrew the dictatorship in the name of "justice, freedom and democracy," the post-Edsa 1987 Constitution largely restored the old counterproductive unitary system that stifles local initiative and resourcefulness and perpetuates local dependency and control through national regulation and patronage.

Gridlock

With a vengeance, the 1987 Constitution also restored the unstable presidential system, with its rising cost of elections, its built-in conflicts and gridlock in the separation of powers and checks-and-balance between the President and Congress. This may have been aggravated by a Supreme Court that has an unprecedented mandate to judge that the President or Congress has exceeded its power and jurisdiction.

Our inefficient and not so accountable bureaucracy, the personalized electoral factions with shifting, opportunistic members we call political parties, the powerful and politicized military, the often biased, sensational and largely unaccountable media, the deterioration of a once credible post-Edsa Commission on Elections, and pervasive corruption in various institutions are indicators of ineffective governance under our unitary-presidential system.

All these and persistent poverty, unemployment, massive labor migration, widening social inequality, inadequate social services and infrastructure, heavy government indebtedness, and endemic rebellion are traceable to a failure of leadership and a political system of weak institutions that obstruct the rule of law and good governance. Some analysts call it a combination of a weak nation, lack of political will, and "a soft state."

Federal republic

CMFP recommends a fundamental restructuring of the powers, functions, resources and relations between the national government and the local governments through the establishment of intermediary federal states. These new regional governments will integrate the provinces, cities and municipalities within their territory.

The federal government will focus on such functions as security and defense, foreign relations, the monetary and central banking system, citizenship and human rights in general, immigration and customs, national infrastructure, global trade, industry and globalization, the appellate judiciary and a new constitutional tribunal to deal with constitutional issues.

CMFP proposes to establish 11 federal states, which are entirely new autonomous regional governments based on some common ethno-linguistic, cultural and historical features; contiguous or neighboring territory; and economic potential and viability.

11 federal states

For serious examination, the 11 proposed states are: (1) Ilocos-Cagayan Valley, (2) Cordillera, (3) Central Luzon, (4) Metro Manila; (5) Southern Tagalog, (6) Bicol, (7) Central-Eastern Visayas, (8) Western Visayas-Palawan, (9) Zamboanga Peninsula-Northern Mindanao, (10) Bangsamoro, and (11) Central Mindanao-Davao Region.

While the federal republic will be defined and established in the 1987 Constitution as revised and then ratified in the plebiscite, it will be asymmetrical in that some of the states will be activated ahead of the others in a period of 5 to 10 years. However, for compelling reasons we cannot elaborate in this brief sketch, Bangsamoro and Cordillera should be among the first to be activated as states.

These federal states will take over from the present national government the bulk of these functions: peace and order and public safety; agriculture, agrarian reform and fisheries; commerce, industry and tourism; natural resources, energy and environment; basic and vocational-technical education; health and sanitation; water and electrification; public works, transport and communication; social welfare and development; and development of regional languages, culture and the arts. The federal government will assist the states in some of these functions and will also provide them federal grants-in-aid and equalization assistance. The overall tax system and fiscal administration will also be restructured.

Parliamentary system

Each state will have its own parliamentary assembly, which may be constituted by the elected provincial governors and an equal number of additional members to be chosen on the basis of the party votes cast in the election of the governors. The majority party/coalition in the state assembly members will elect the state governor and vice governor and the cabinet secretaries of the various departments. The state career civil service will serve the state government. The state judiciary will consist of the regional trial courts and inferior courts.

This new system will fuse executive power and legislative power in the federal parliament where the majority party or coalition elects the prime minister (the head of government), who will lead the government and its Cabinet of ministers.

All members of Parliament (MPs) are responsible and accountable to the people through the Parliament. MPs are elected in some 225 parliamentary districts. Additional 60 to 100 members are to be chosen by "proportional representation" of the political parties according to their share of the total electoral votes cast for the various competing parties.

The powers and welfare of the various federal states shall be represented and protected in the Parliament as in all the federal systems in the world.

Ceremonial president

The new President is a "ceremonial" head of state, who is elected by Parliament and the state assemblies. Parliament is served by a permanent career civil service.

CMFP also proposes a special article to guide the reform of political parties to make them democratic, cohesive, stable, program-oriented, and accountable to Parliament and to the people. Parties are to be partly supported by state financing and party turncoats penalized.

The electoral system is also to be reformed by enabling voters to vote for the party they want to govern in the Parliament and in the state assemblies. Moreover, a special Bill of Duties and Obligations will complement the Bill of Rights.

Consultative commission

We in CMFP are glad that President Arroyo is forming a consultative constitutional commission, which is also welcome to many legislators. This will enable knowledgeable members of civil society like scholars, lawyers, and representatives of religious and professional groups, and local government leagues and business chambers to help in proposing constitutional reforms.

The commission's proposals should be submitted to the President, Congress, and, hopefully, a constitutional convention. With its report the commission could also help in informing the citizens at large about the ideas, issues and consequences of the proposed changes in the 1987 Constitution.

For more information on constitutional reform the reader is referred to the reports and books of the CMFP and KC Institute of Federal-Parliamentary Democracy at Kalayaan College. The author's latest book contains the whole revised text of the CMFP Draft Constitution. It is titled Charter Change for Good Governance: Towards a Federal Republic of the Philippines with a Parliamentary Government. Copies are available at Kalayaan College at Riverbanks Center, Marikina; UP Press at Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman; and the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, also in UP Diliman.

(Abueva is chair of the advisory board of the Citizens' Movement for a Federal Philippines and president of Kalayaan College.)

'I cannot vote for the Prime Minister'

By Sen. Joker P. Arroyo

In light of space limitation, I shall limit myself to the practical consequences of the parliamentary setup.

The presidential and parliamentary systems are both good. The Philippines has always been under the presidential system. We have no experience whatsoever with parliamentary practice except during the lamented martial law years, which is not a good model.

The Filipino voter, and we have some 30 million, has always voted directly for the President. His choice is his and no one else's.

In the parliamentary system, the campaign line will be that if candidate X, who belongs to Party A, wins, he will vote for candidate Y for prime minister, the leader of his Party A. The voter, instead of voting directly for the Prime Minister, will entrust his vote to the parliamentary candidate he will vote for.

While the Filipino has always participated directly in choosing who should lead the country, the parliamentary system would deprive him of that. He will vote by proxy. This does not sit well with our participatory political culture.

It is argued that it would be easier to remove an unworthy Prime Minister. We do not have to wait for his term to expire. Really?

At present, in the 237-member House of Representatives, the opposition, despite the noise, hoopla, demonstrations and massive media support against a maligned President, cannot muster the 1/3 vote needed to impeach, that is, charge her.

Danger of autocratic rule

All they have gotten are the signatures of less than 1/5 of the membership. Whoever said that it is ever easy to remove an incumbent leader of a country? An incumbent, whether it is presidential or parliamentary, would always have the decided advantage inherent in incumbency.

On the contrary, the parliamentary setup is conducive to installing a Prime Minister who can stay on in perpetuity. Since the Prime Minister is not only the Chief Executive but at the same time the leader of Parliament, patronage politics would even be worse than in the presidential setup. Here we face the danger that parliamentarianism opens the door to autocratic rule under a very strong Prime Minister, who can mesmerize a docile parliament because the powers of the executive and the legislative are merged into one.

Weak party system

The Prime Minister, in a parliamentary system, is elected from among the members of Parliament to whom he is directly accountable. His Cabinet, the government, so to speak, rises and falls on the continued support or loss of confidence of the legislature, which can dismiss the government on a no-confidence vote.

The counter weight is the power of the Prime Minister to dissolve Parliament and call for new elections. Theoretically, the existence of a strong party system provides the "system of check and balance" within the legislature, where there are definitive ideologies or platforms of government that are delineated according to party lines against which policy directions are fully debated and voted upon in Parliament.

And this is where we face a major challenge. Our brand of politics is unfortunately dominated by personalities, not by party platforms, ideologies, or causes. We have not developed a strong party system and a meritocracy-based bureaucracy, which should provide the stability and continuity needed to withstand the constant pressures of changes at the top, a hallmark of a parliamentary system.

Developing countries like the Philippines brought up under the American tradition of presidential system for over a hundred years cannot experiment with the parliamentary system that works well in advanced countries in Europe, Japan, and the Commonwealth countries of Canada, Australia and New Zealand where it developed and advanced over the years and fortified by relatively strong economies.

Obscurantism

It is said that legislation would be faster in a parliamentary setting because a unicameral legislature is only one House. This is obscurantism.

One need not go parliamentary if the objective is just to have a unicameral legislature. We had a unicameral National Assembly during the Commonwealth, 1935 to 1941, but at the same time we had a president. But after a six-year experiment, we went back to the bicameral setup.

The present Constitution has its defects, we can see it and perhaps, it is time and fair to correct parts of them. But let us not overhaul the basic structure of government because to begin with, it isn't really broke. To borrow a much-repeated phrase, the problem lies in our leaders.

(Arroyo chairs the Senate blue ribbon, justice and human rights, and public services committees.)

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ROUNDUP

New Ombudsman office

SUSME-
ANDAME!

DAVAO CITY—The Ombudsman will open a regional office in Northern Mindanao this year to rush the resolution of cases now piling up at the Ombudsman Mindanao. Ombudsman Mindanao director Rodolfo Elman said the new office will be put up in Cagayan de Oro City. At least 462 cases are pending at the Ombudsman Mindanao office here and Elman said the number continues to grow. He said his office receives close to 100 cases per month. The bottleneck, he said, would be addressed when the new regional office opens.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

CD for Pampanga youth

THE CD album, "Para sa Youth… living with a SENSE OF MISSION!" was launched yesterday in SM City Pampanga. The album is the initial activity of the Commission on Youth Ministry of the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga to raise funds to build the Archdiocesan Youth Center, according to a news release. "Young people are like the 'migratory birds' of Candaba Swamp. They also need a sanctuary… a Youth's Haven that could attend to their different needs," said Fr. Ronnie Cao, Youth Ministry Director. For details, contact Arnold L. Carreon (09189030109); Leslie Dayrit (09179900959) or Fr. Jose Ronnie D. Cao (09178380580).

Grenade found

VICTORIA, Laguna—A concerned citizen's telephone call to the police station in this town resulted in the discovery and retrieval of a fragmentation grenade on Sunday. Police said that at about 2:30 p.m., their station got a call from one Jess San Gabriel of Barangay San Roque, informing them that an explosive had been dug up at the back of his house. Police investigated the area that resulted in the discovery of the grenade. The grenade was brought to the police station.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Jueteng' report belied

LUCENA CITY—Laguna and Quezon police officials have belied a report that "jueteng" in their respective provinces had resumed operations. "There is no jueteng operation in any part of Laguna, not even the guerrilla-type," Senior Supt. Federico Terte, Laguna police chief, said. Supt. Reuben Sindac, intelligence and investigation chief of the Quezon provincial police, also said no jueteng operation exists in his province. Sindac said sustained operations against all forms of illegal gambling had been intensified in Quezon, resulting in their total eradication. On Sunday, Richard Garcia, a confessed former jueteng bagman and witness of antigambling crusader Bishop Oscar Cruz, claimed that jueteng operations were back in Nueva Ecija, Laguna and Quezon.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Demand for water rises; crisis looms in C. Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—As the region's demand for water soars to twice the 12.5 million cubic meters of potential supply, a serious water shortage looms in Central Luzon in 2025, an expert bared during a regional water summit here on Friday.

"The demand is far greater than what is available," said Dr. Rex Victor Cruz of the College of Forestry and Natural Resources of the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (Laguna).

Signs of the impending water deficit have been apparent, he said.

In Nueva Ecija, for example, the amount of rain has decreased. The temperature, on the other hand, has been higher, Cruz said, citing data obtained in monitoring stations.

The capacity of the Pantabangan Dam, also in Nueva Ecija, has been down to 10 percent due to siltation, he said.

The problem, he said, has national implication as Central Luzon supplies 20 percent of the country's total farm production.

He said a steady supply of water should be ensured as the region's population (8.2 million as of 2000) is expected to double in 25 years.

At the same time, the region is prone to droughts, as the 1997 and 1998 drought brought about by the El Niño phenomenon had shown. Damage to agriculture in those years reached P140.4 million, Cruz said.

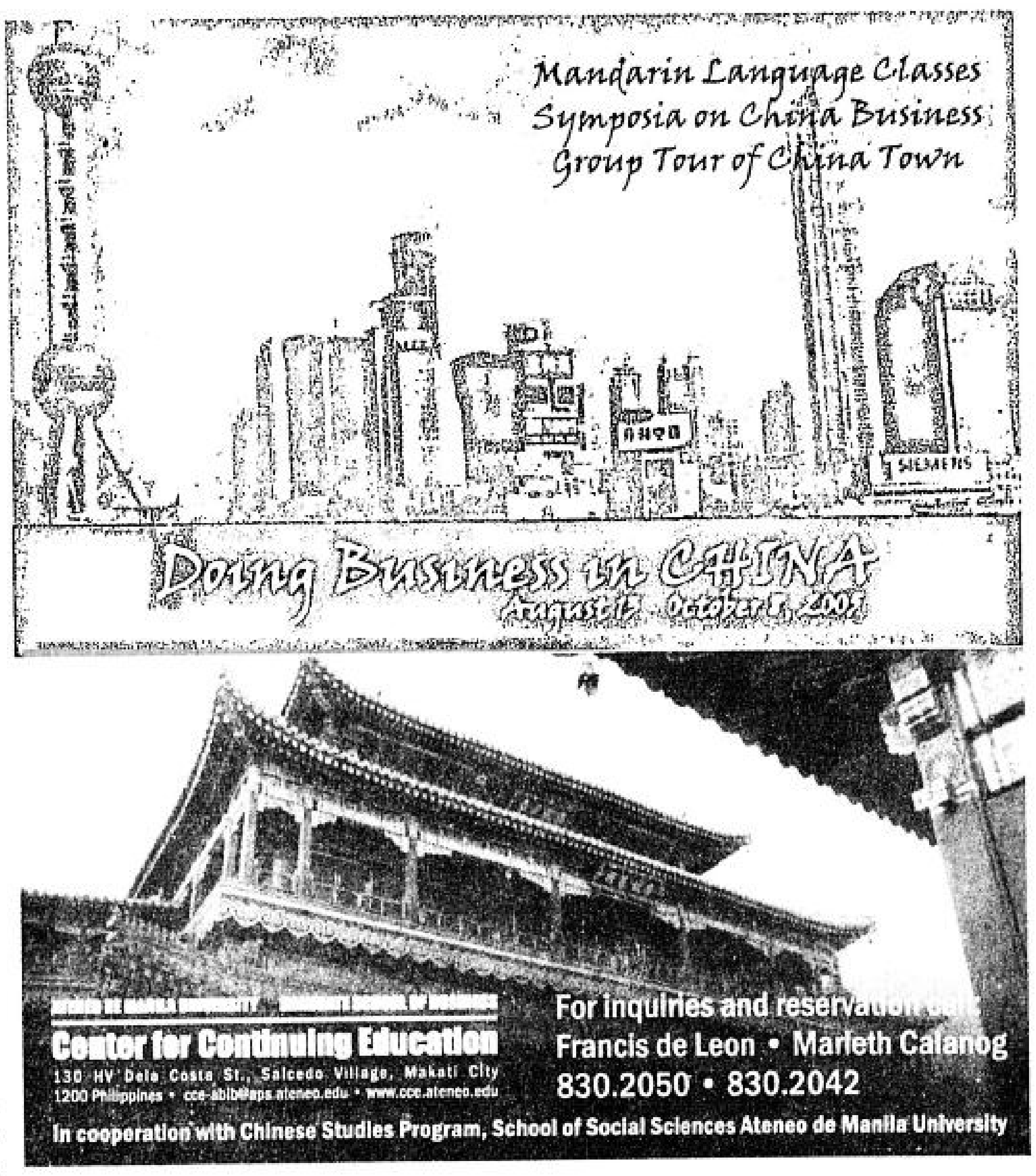
He proposed the conservation and revival of the region's watersheds through reforestation to avert the crisis.

This, he said, is the defense against floods, droughts and other pressures from urbanization and other economic and social needs.

Floods, on the other hand, can be minimized if the government will regulate groundwater use, according to marine geologists Kelvin Rodolfo and Fernando Siringan.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has started the rehabilitation of the Pampanga River Basin Watershed, which covers practically the whole of Central Luzon.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Political unity may change ARMM polls

By Nash B. Maulana
Maguindanao

THE ATMOSPHERE that suggests unity and humility among politicians in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) may spell changes in the region's fifth elections on August 8, one that could make the politics of gold, guns and goons (3Gs) a thing of the past, observers say.

Political party, religious movement, patriarchal leadership, and, in the case of Basilan and Tawi-Tawi, "indigenous nationalism" are the unifying factors.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the "Philippines is the only country in Asia and the world that brings together Christian democrats and Muslim democrats under one roof, one party and under one common goal—that of our national interests, above every personal ambition."

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar said there is a strong sense of what he calls the "Basilan nationalism" among his constituents, so that they go first for anyone from Basilan "except for those who bring us disgrace."

Another unifying factor is the religious Tabligh Movement, which is centered in Lanao del Sur. The group became the vehicle of gubernatorial candidate Mahid Mutilan, a religious leader, before being catapulted by the Tabligh to secular politics.

Mutilan, now vice governor of ARMM, is confident the group, which has chapters in Maguindanao, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, will push him to the region's highest post this time.

Mutilan's vice gubernatorial running mate Assemblyman Esmael Abubakar hails from Tawi-Tawi.

But local politicians, except for Lanao del Sur Gov. Aleem Basher Manalao, have hardly been cooperative of this conservative religious group, which explains why Lanao del Sur is now the focus of the Task Force Hope (Honest Orderly and Peaceful Elections) headed by Marine Brig. Gen. Muhammad Benjamin Dolorfino.

For lone Tausog and woman candidate Warina Sushi Jukuy, compact disks for a campaign material "produced by friends for me" could effectively bring her to several places at the same time, "with 50 angels guarding my votes come election day" for a chance of winning against 99 percent probability of losing.

"I can't go around campaigning for lack of logistics. But mind you, by divine intervention, two zeros could add up to that one digit of chance to make it 100 percent," she told the INQUIRER.

The finest expressions of political unification in the current ARMM campaign period have been hugs and exchanges, not anymore of political tirades, but of mending speeches between and among political adversaries.

"I thought I was the modern-day David to beat the political Goliath of Tawi-Tawi that is Gov. Sadikul Sahali. When I lost to him in the last May election, I realized that I was wrong, because Dick Sahali remains the same political giant of Tawi-Tawi," district candidate Bonying Abdulrahman told a crowd that attended a political rally in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi for administration candidate Zaldy Uy Ampatuan and his running mate Ansaruddin Alonto Adiong.

Another politician just as unlucky in the last voting said he had attended a meeting that Sahali had organized for the ARMM polls, because "beyond politics, the governor was calling for unity [among us] for Tawi-Tawi in *hula kialasahan ko*" (The land that I have loved).

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong said the Tausogs now wish to transform Sulu "from [being] the land of firearms to the land of farms; from war tanks combing across its land to [farm] tractors plowing its fields; and from being a known breeding ground of terrorism to tourism destination." Loong, a relative of Paglas', said he has decided to stick it out with the Lakas-CMD, his political party.

Drawing support from the business community, Liberal Party's Ibrahim Paglas III said he wanted a visible American intervention in the ARMM elections.

Former Maguindanao Rep. Guimid Matalam is the latest to withdraw from the gubernatorial race and had signed a commitment letter urging his friends and relatives to support Lakas-CMD candidate Ampatuan. But he told reporters he would continue campaigning for other opposition candidates in the region.

Maranaos could be torn between vice gubernatorial candidates Hata Dimaporo (LP) and Adiong of the ruling Lakas-CMD, both scions of influential political clans of Lanao del Sur.

Fatherly

In a family of leaders in Maguindanao, Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan Sr. stands tall in fatherly image to the province's 28 mayors, including Paglas, a local executive-turned corporate giant.

"I listen like a father to them, just as they listen to and obey me like my own children," Ampatuan said.

Party affiliation alone does not bind all the four provincial governors in a consensus of sending two young politicians—Mayor Zaldy Ampatuan, 37, of Shariff Aguak, Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur Assemblyman Ansaruddin Adiong, 33—to the political battlefield of mostly seasoned politicians.

"Unity in the name peace and dynamism in the young," they said.

Governor Ampatuan's "unite and govern" approach—an unwritten antidote, he said, for the divide-and-rule political strategy that had put his province under its feet for so long—has reduced political violence in Maguindanao.

Wittingly or unwittingly, Ampatuan is setting sight on a useful political tool for anyone who aims to be on the top seat under a federal setup. To be head of a federal state, one has to win the support and cooperation of present local leaders.

Hitting that target may not be purely coincidental for politically far-sighted Ampatuan, who had converted around 10,000 hectares of dissidents' hideout in Maguindanao into an agricultural area (since it was first reported that bandits or terrorists from Basilan and Sulu had sought refuge in the Mindanao mainland), which, he thought, opened a vast opportunity in social welfare in terms of productivity and security.

But not everyone is in the mood for smoking the peace pipe. Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin has been displeased with the outcome of the selection of administration gubernatorial candidate by a committee activated last March under the Office of the Presidential Assistant on the Peace Process (Opapp).

The Opapp had set the criteria for the selection of an administration candidate for ARMM governor. Aspirants were asked to submit credentials and were required to undergo interviews by the selection committee.

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HOM is where the heart is

By Jocelyn R. Uy

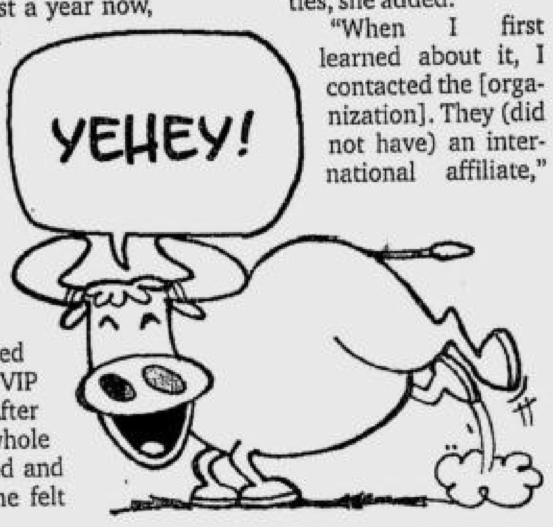
FOR 28-YEAR-OLD Khristina Umali, the silence of the deaf children she regularly spent time with was more comforting than the quiet in her workplace.

Umali has been a member of Hands on Manila (HOM) Foundation, Inc. for almost a year now, teaching arts and crafts to deaf children.

"I joined in October 2004 during the HOM's Volunteer in Person (VIP) Day," she told the INQUIRER.

A friend invited her to attend the VIP Day, she said. After spending the whole day with orphaned and street children, she felt happy.

She added that she loved seeing children with smiles on their faces.



Nice break

"That's what really inspired me to do volunteer work with HOM," she said. She said spending time with the children was a nice break from the corporate world.

Umali works in an engineering company.

HOM is a non-profit organization that links service-ready foundations and volunteers in different community projects within Metro Manila, HOM president Gianna Montinola told the INQUIRER.

The foundation, which would be four years this October, was patterned after a hands-on network in the United States, she explained.

The US-based organization, City Cares, provided flexible and innovative volunteer opportunities, she added.

"When I first learned about it, I contacted the [organization]. They (did not have) an international affiliate," she said.

Now, HOM, is an emerging international affiliate of City Cares, USA. Based in Atlanta, the organization that has achieved immense success in enabling effective volunteer service.

HOM held the Volunteer in Person (VIP) Day in October 2004, its first, to celebrate its third anniversary. The event was held at the NBC Tent at Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

The VIP Day gathered 135 new volunteers from all walks of life, from the young to the elderly. It aimed to promote volunteerism among Filipinos, Montinola said.

"[Filipinos] always have a sense of wanting to be part of something or wanting to contribute something but don't know how to go about it. Hands On Manila provides an avenue for that," said Cynthia Torres, general manager of PriceSmart Philippines Inc.

PriceSmart, an American-style membership warehouse shopping club, was the latest company to join HOM's growing network as it continued its advocacy of the value of volunteerism, Torres said.

Montinola said HOM provided flexible and innovative volunteer opportunities that were adapted to the schedule of their volunteers.

"And they can do a number of things. They could volunteer at pediatric wards, teach arts and crafts or read books to children," she said.

"I am so proud to say that many years later, we have more than 3,000 volunteers," she said, adding that more than 45 non-government organizations (NGOs) were affiliated with the foundation.

Officers and trustees

Aside from Montinola, other officers of HOM include Wynn Wynn Ong, vice president; Dr. Jose Rene Gayo, treasurer; Nicole Fandiño, assistant treasurer; Maria Cristina Duarte Olbes, secretary.

It's trustees are led by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Junie del Mundo and Federico Lopez.

MONTINOLA

PRIETO-ROMUALDEZ

DUARTE OLBES

GAYO

A few days ago, HOM launched its VIP Day with a supermarket race, the first of its kind, Montinola pointed out.

The race, held at PriceSmart's branch on Fifth Avenue, Fort Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City, was participated in by members of national and campus media and NGO-partner representatives.

Ten teams, each composed of three members, pushed tangerine shopping carts along the aisles of the grocery store, collecting from the more than 50 huge shelves items on the list provided them.

The ten teams each had a P10,000 budget to purchase the items on their grocery list. The purchases were later brought home by HOM's NGO-partner representatives.

Participants in the 10-minute race filled their shopping carts with items like toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpastes, soaps and shampoos, bottles of vitamins, cans of powdered milk and biscuits, coffee, noodles, and sandwich spread.

"It was fun shopping for the basic needs of the NGOs," said bank employee Leo Cabasag, 25, an HOM volunteer.

Winner

The Pangarap Shelter Foundation was declared winner, collecting all the items on the list at the shortest time. It also came closest to the budget without exceeding it.

"This would be a great help to our organization (Pangarap)," Ed Lorenzo, who represented Pangarap Foundation in the race, said.

Lorenzo, the foundation's in-house teacher, said, with the items they brought home, the money they had set aside for the children's basic needs would now be spent on other important things that the kids lacked.

The shelter is located in Libertad, Pasay City. It cares for at least 87 orphaned and indigent children.

"Serving the children for eight hours is not enough. But joining the grocery race was an extra service to them," said Lorenzo.

Navotas, Malabon free ride

By Nancy C. Carvajal

FAST and economical.

That was how housewife Raquel Domingo described her first river ferry boat ride from Tangos station in Navotas to San Agustin, Malabon market.

"I reached my destination in less than five minutes, it was faster. There was no traffic," she told INQUIRER after being one of first to try the "Sandoval Super Boats" launched yesterday.

Funded by the pork barrel funds of Rep. Ricky Sandoval and run by the Pamalakaya Foundation, the ferry boat system is an alternative mode of transportation for people and cargo from Navotas and Malabon.

Each of the four boats in initial operation reportedly cost P250,000 and has been named "Sandoval Super Boat."

The lone representative of Navotas and Malabon said the river transport system reduces travel cost and traffic hassle resulting in faster turnaround for commuters.

Boat vs jeepney

A jeepney ride between the town and the city usually takes about 30 minutes and costs P7.50.

Sandoval said yesterday's run was free but starting today, a minimum fare of P4 and maximum of P7 would be charged.

Nine boat stations have been built along the Malabon-Navotas river. In Malabon, these are in Tanza Sais, Tanza Cinco, Baritan, Cuatro, Concepcion Tres and San Agustin-Malabon Central.

The stations on the Navotas side are in Tangos Sais, San Roque Cinco, San Roque Cuatro, San Jose Tres and Bagumbayan South.

Yesterday's commuters said much could still be done to improve the system.

"I hope they could make terminals safer specially if students and fish retailers would routinely take the ferry ride," one woman said.

A cop or a security officer could be posted in each station especially if it's going to be a full time operation.

YOUNG AND INDUSTRIOUS LYN RILLON
Children at the Bulungan docks along the coast of Parañaque City clean mussels to help augment their families' income. They are paid P10 for every bucket of mussel cleaned.

Las Piñas hospital in the making

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IN THREE years, the Las Piñas Integrated District Hospital (LPIDH), in all its Spanish flair, will become the city's first general hospital.

As part of the transition, a new ground floor waiting area and the out-patient department on the third floor were opened the other day.

"Now that the waiting area is open, our patients' visitors will no longer have to wait outside the hospital under the heat of the sun," Las Piñas City Rep. Cynthia Villar said as she addressed city officials and some 180 residents during the inauguration last week.

The LPIDH, standing regal on Padre Diego Cera Avenue, was packed with visitors to attend the launching, as well as to greet Villar who was celebrating her birthday that day.

She vowed that after three years, LPIDH would be named Las Piñas General Hospital, noting that a bill converting the district hospital into a general hospital had already been passed to the Senate.

Just recently, hospital visitors had to stay outside under a tent, said Maribel Navallasca, who has been working at the hospital for 18 years.

Having witnessed the changes in the hospital, from a 50-bed to a 100-bed facility, she said, the waiting area and the construction of new wards on the third floor were welcome developments.

One pedia ward

"In the past we only had one pediatric ward, which could accommodate only six patients," Navallasca said while recalling how patients crammed the halls of the old pedia ward.

"We had to provide folding beds along the hall just to accommodate them," she added.

The new pediatric ward, which has seven additional rooms, can now accommodate 35 to 40 patients.

Dr. Maria Socorro Yarbrough, district head of the city's Public Health Unit said that prior to the construction of the new areas, the hospital could handle 25 patients only. "Now, we can house 150 to 200 patients," the doctor said.

Parking areas have also been set in front of the hospital, while another parking lot was reserved for hospital employees at the back.

Villar said the hospital had been functioning as a secondary hospital since it established a blood bank and set up two dialysis machines.

"However, buying equipment that make up a general hospital is not enough. We also need the help of the Department of Health (DOH) to provide us with skilled personnel to operate [them]," she added.

Villar asked DOH Sec. Francisco Duque, for additional budget for the district hospital since it was already operating as a 100-bed hospital.

"Until now, the hospital has been allocated with a budget good only for a 50-bed hospital," she said.

Archeologists seek changes

By Tina G. Santos

ARCHEOLOGISTS will suggest to the Manila City govenment to modify the design of the two-story teachers' building it is planning to build inside the Arroceros Forest Park to incorporate recently discovered historical structures at the site.

Earlier, archaeologists excavated portions of the 2.1-hectare property and retrieved artifacts that included earthenware, porcelain shards, bricks, and metals such as old nails and Chinese coins.

Apart from the artifacts, National Museum workers also found large adobe or granite structures resembling a floor or a wall.

Joy Belmonte, vice president of the Kapisanan ng mga Archeologist ng Pilipinas (Kapi), said her group wanted these structures to remain visible by incorporating them into the building's design.

"This would help raise awareness about the importance of archaeology and allow people to realize how rich the city's cultural heritage is. At least the public would have a historical perspective," she told INQUIRER.

Belmonte added that they would also ask the city government to designate an area or a room in the proposed teachers' building where the artifacts could be placed for public viewing.

Caloocan slay suspect falls

THE PRIME suspect in the killing of a businessman and three members of his household has been arrested, an official of the Caloocan City police told the INQUIRER.

The official who requested anonymity said Junito "Tyson" Espinosa, a native of Zamboanga City, was arrested yesterday afternoon by members of the Caloocan police Theft and Robbery Section under Insp. Marcelo S. Mariano.

Espinosa, who was sought for the murder of heavy equipment parts trader Andro Luis Villa and three others, was reportedly collared in Metro Manila. He is expected to be presented to media tomorrow.

Mayor Enrico Echeverri said he would be giving the P50,000 reward he promised to the one who tipped off Espinosa.

Espinosa was an employee of Villa.

Killed with Villa were his girlfriend Joy Cambongga 19; his daughter Yvanna Faye, 12; and maid Fely Omblero, 41.

Nancy C. Carvajal

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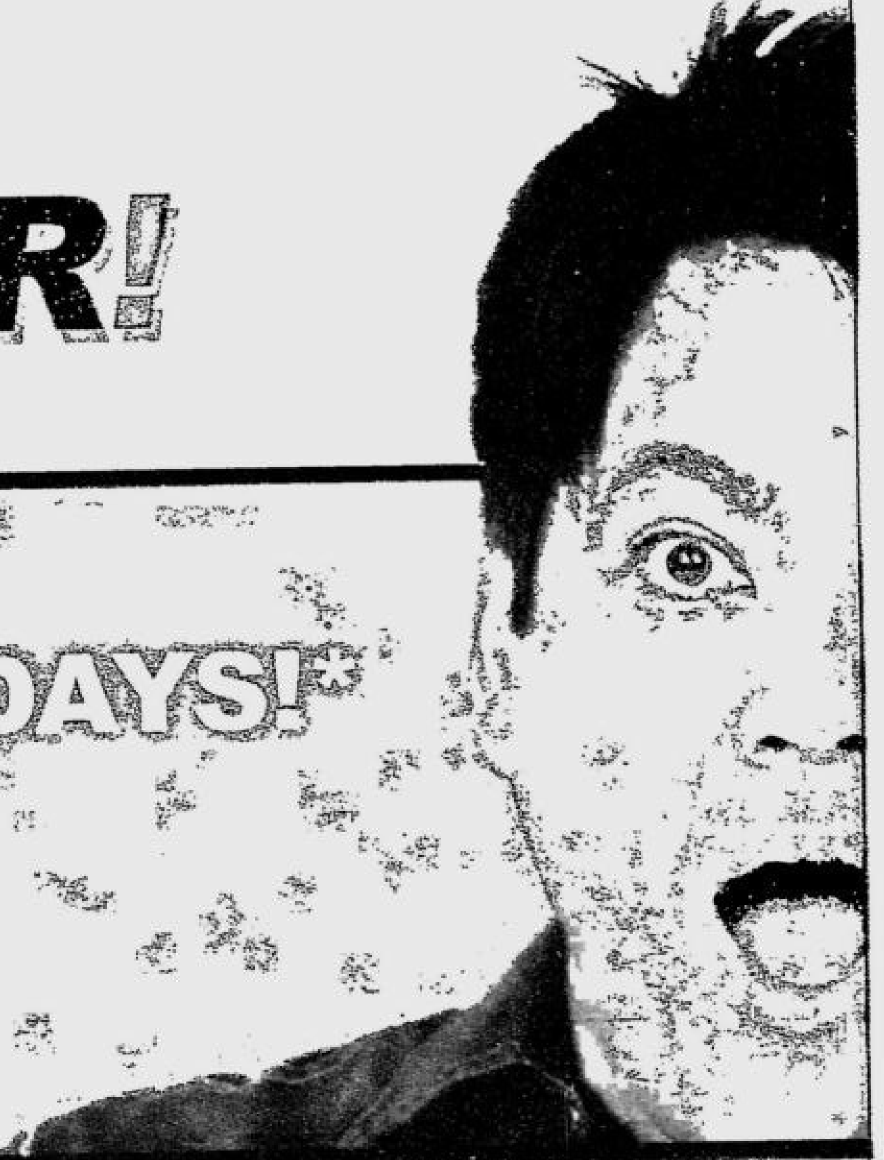

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BEACH VOLLEY
Stella Baltao, in tandem with Trisha Limgenco of Ateneo returns a serve during the third leg of the Petron Ladies Beach Volleyball at the Baywalk in Roxas Boulevard, Manila. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Uichico still finds inspiration in old mentor

By Musong R. Castillo

TAIWAN–Jong Uichico is in another tour of duty for the Philippines. And although he is serving as assistant to Chot Reyes in the 27th Jones Cup this time, the multi-titled San Miguel coach in the Philippine Basketball Association still sought inspiration from the same man.

Friend and mentor Ron Jacobs.

Like he did during his stint as national coach in 2002, Uichico visited the bedridden Jacobs, who suffered a massive stroke nearly four years ago that left him with very limited physical capabilities, to seek inspiration. Uichico got the emotional lift he needed: Jacobs sent him off with a thumbs-up sign.

"I asked him if he thinks we can win it (the Jones Cup)," Uichico told the INQUIRER Saturday. "Though he's been out of touch (of the international basketball scene), it was good to see that from him. His passion for the game and love for Philippine basketball has not waned one bit."

Jacobs, with a team built around naturalized players Jeff Moore and Dennis Still and locals Samboy Lim and Allan Caidic, won this tournament in 1985, upsetting a fancied United States made up of players who would eventually make it to the NBA.

Jacobs was tasked to bring the country back to the top of the Asian hoop scene in 2002 and was named head coach of the national team for the Busan Asian Games.

The former Loyola at Marymount coach never got to do his job, falling to a stroke in December 23, 2001, just as he was starting a program that would have kept the national squad together for at least a year before the competition.

"The stress may have been too much, it told on his body," Uichico.

Uichico, the American's most ardent student at that time, took up the coaching cudgels and almost put the Philippines in the gold medal game against China.

Reyes' program, which started early this year, resembles the Jacobs formula except that the time frame is longer and the goal bigger—the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

After a 6-1 card and with a solid shot at the Jones Cup, Uichico may get more than just a thumbs-up from his mentor when he personally brings him the news next week.

Meanwhile, ABC-5 will air the week-long stint of the RP men's national team in the Global Hoops Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada starting today.

Backed by Philippine Basketball Association stars, the RP squad's game against Long Beach Jam, the 2003 American Basketball Association champion, will be shown at 7 p.m. Wednesday.

The Nationals collide with Passing Lane Sports, a team made up of American collegiate standouts, on Friday also at 7 p.m.

EAGLES SOAR

Warriors clobber Falcons

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
10 a.m.—UST vs NU (Jrs)
12 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UST vs NU (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs)

By Jasmine W. Payo

THERE are no typical freshmen in the University of the East.

Banking on the productive start of their gritty rookies, the Warriors easily crushed the Adamson Falcons, 90-69, in the UAAP basketball tournament yesterday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Guard Bonifacio Custodio led the Warriors' uptempo game with 19 points, on top of four rebounds, eight assists and five steals. Mark Borboran and James Martinez teamed up for 27 points.

"Everybody played well, particularly Bonbon (Custodio) and Mark," said coach Dindo Pumaren after the Warriors streaked to their fourth straight win.

UE totes a 4-1 card, behind Far Eastern U's league-leading 5-0 slate. Adamson dropped to 2-3.

Earlier, senior forward JC Intal powered Ateneo past the University of the Philippines, 71-63.

Intal shot a season-high 23 points—including key baskets that quelled the Maroons' persistent rallies—and grabbed nine rebounds as the Eagles posted their third win in five outings to tie La Salle and UP in the standings.

"This was a big challenge, to come up with this win," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "They (Maroons) came into this game at 3-1 but we were able to step up to the challenge."

In junior play, the Eaglets outclassed the Junior Fighting Maroons, 76-67. The Baby Falcons, meanwhile, tripped the Pages, 72-60.

The senior scores:

First Game

ATENEO 71—Intal 23, Tenorio 13, Kramer 12, Escalona 6, Reyes 4, Membrere 4, Laterre 3, Arao 3, Aguilar 2, Quimson 1.

UP 63—David 16, Santos 15, Cruz 12, Vainio 7, Doruelo 6, Ferrer 4, , Gavino 3, Quebral 0, Padolina 0, Buyco 0, Bienvenida 0, Agbayani 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 37-27, 54-48, 71-63

Second Game

UE 90—Custodio 19, Borboran 14, Martinez 13, Arellano 11, Raymundo 6, Labagala 6, Palaganas 4, Saguindel 4, Gregorio 4, Espiritu 4, Cañizares 3, Lapeña 2, Napo 0, Babilonia 0.

ADAMSON 69—Cabahug 17, Bono 14, Hate 10, Tiongco 8, Gonzalgo 6, Tajonera 5, Yong 2, Hugnatan 2, Basilio 2, Agustin 2, Capati 1.

Quarters: 21-16, 46-31, 78-50, 90-69

St. Clare wins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ST. CLARE'S fearsome threesome struck hardest in the payoff period to defeat New Era University, 79-69, yesterday and share the lead in the National Athletic Association of Schools Colleges and Universities at the NEU Gym.

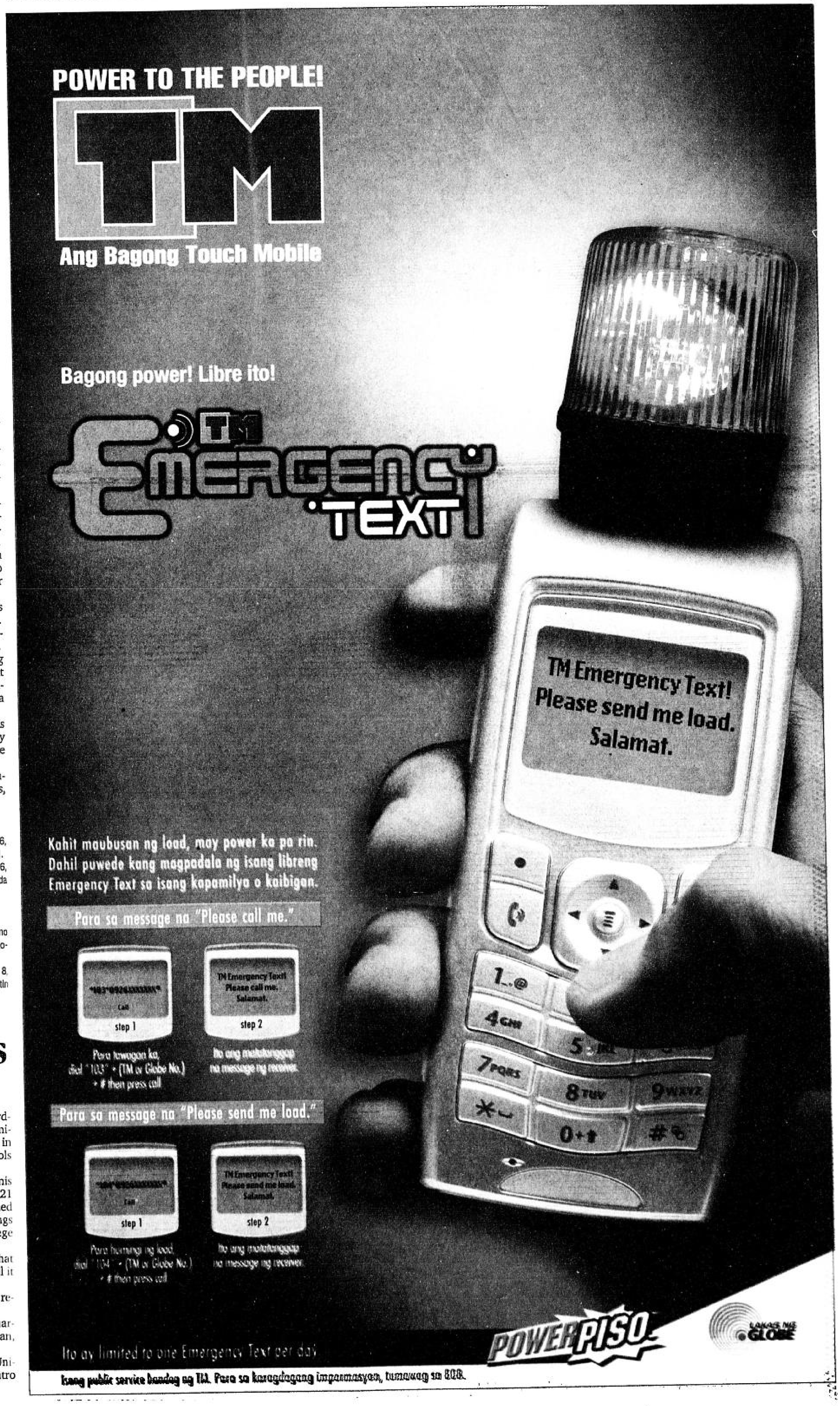
Niño Songco, Gerald Geraldino and Dennis San Pedro combined for 18 of the Saints' 21 points in the fourth quarter as they notched their third straight win in as many outings and join University of Manila and STI College on top.

Songco scored eight of his 22 points in that juncture to dampen NEU's morale and pull it down to its third defeat in four games.

A holdover, Songco also contributed 11 rebounds and three assists.

The Hunters, 24-21, led after the first quarter through the efforts of Jeff de Guzman, Joseph Perlas and Mel Alastre.

In the second game, Ama Computer University stunned last year's runner-up Centro Escolar, 71-69.



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Race 3—1. Last Hazm/Plaridel Hero 2. Ghurka 3. Cool Mount
Race 4—1. Scream for Chance 2. Dalia 3. Classy Babe 4. Queen of D Jungle
Race 5—1. Strong Colony/Jokes Only 2. Expediter 3. Tactical Move 4. Now Showing
Race 6—1. Jajie/Collective Dreams 2. Blue Face 3. Decidido 4. Fastteller
Race 7—1. Desirable/ Flying Princess 2. Last Snip/Teetotal 3. Wild Orchid
Race 8—1. Presidentiable 2. Hazit Coming 3. My Rabbonnie 4. Heart of Jonna/Queen's Gold
Race 9—1. Letshaveaparty/Gigi's Gold 2. Dagger Look 3. Seven Lakes/Prophet 4.Boy from Brazil 5. Gold Money
Race 10—1. Real Tough 2. Bunker Buster 3. Gorgeous Sand 4. Ilang Ilang Queen
Race 11—1. Parrot Moe 2. Miracle Music 3. Shaolin 4. Shining Lance
Race 12—1. Sea of Galilee 2. Bom's Bom's 3. Trouble Master 4. Magnanimous
Race 13—1. Close Account 2. Empire State 3. Mina Sa Isla 4. American Beauty 5. Golden Tower 6. Speed Mountain

By Edwin Villanueva, Contributor

EXPERIENCE-WISE, Desirable should be the one to beat in the 4th leg of the 2005 Imported Stakes Series today.

The event is set over the seldom-contested 1,800 meters and the 5-year-old mare from New Zealand owns the distinction of having tackled the distance before, unlike her five other rivals in this afternoon's affair at the Santa Ana Park.

Although that was more than a year ago, when Desirable landed a fighting second in the New Zealand Invitational also at the Makati track, the dark bay galloper looks fit to cop first place judging from her most recent outings.

Her buildup for the race had her notching a couple of Class Division wins that came in between a third-place effort in the Binay Cup and fourth-place showing in the Chairman's Cup, all under veteran Manolito Daquis.

Daquis is not manning Desirable's reins today but the Volksraad-Grosvenor Sky progeny will have no less than ace jockey Pat Dilema as first-time partner.

Instead, Daquis saw himself being assigned to Flying Princess, who will run as a formidable coupled entry to Desirable. The grey galloper sired by Melliford out of Flying Light is fresh from ruling a Class Division event and could act as rabbit in the partnership.

Out to stop the Kiwis are four Australian imports led by Wild Orchid, third placer in the third leg of the series backed by the Philippine Racing Commission under Chair Jimmy Dilag.

Wild Orchid also drew a stronger rider in Fernando Raquel Jr. in a move the filly's handlers hope could land her a better showing than the Australian Cup recently.

Also vying for the P270,000 first prize are Trieste and Hermie Esguerra's coupled entries Last Snip and Teetotal. Dilema is aiming to land another winner in the series after Sir Golden Score, who topped the first leg as the longest shot in the field. Stowaway Lass, with Val Dilema atop, claimed the second leg, while Sound Offer, handled by Raquel, won the third leg.

Pio-Makati Stars eye victory No. 2

MEDIATRIX and Sta. Rosa Spring clash today as they kick off their respective campaigns in the 9th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament while the Pio-Makati Stars seek their second straight win at the Washington gym in Makati City. Playing team manager Mike Dullas' Mediatrix squad and team manager Johnny de Jesus' Spring collide at 6 p.m. in the opener of the twin bill resuming action in the tourney supported by San Miguel, Air 21, Baker's Fair, Funtastic KTV, Gen. Milling Corp., Spring Cooking Oil and Prime Channel. The Stars face San Sebastian College Recoletos-Cavite at 7:30 p.m.

China suffers shame night

BEIJING—A Chinese victory at Beijing Capital Gymnasium on Friday was overshadowed by what was arguably Chinese Basketball's most shameful night as the referee abandoned their match against Puerto Rico after a mass brawl broke out on court at the ongoing Stankovic Cup.

Fists, plastic cups, water bottles and even a fan's shoe went flying in during the fracas with China's Yi Jianlian, Tang Zhengdong, Mo Ke and Li Nan right in the middle of it.

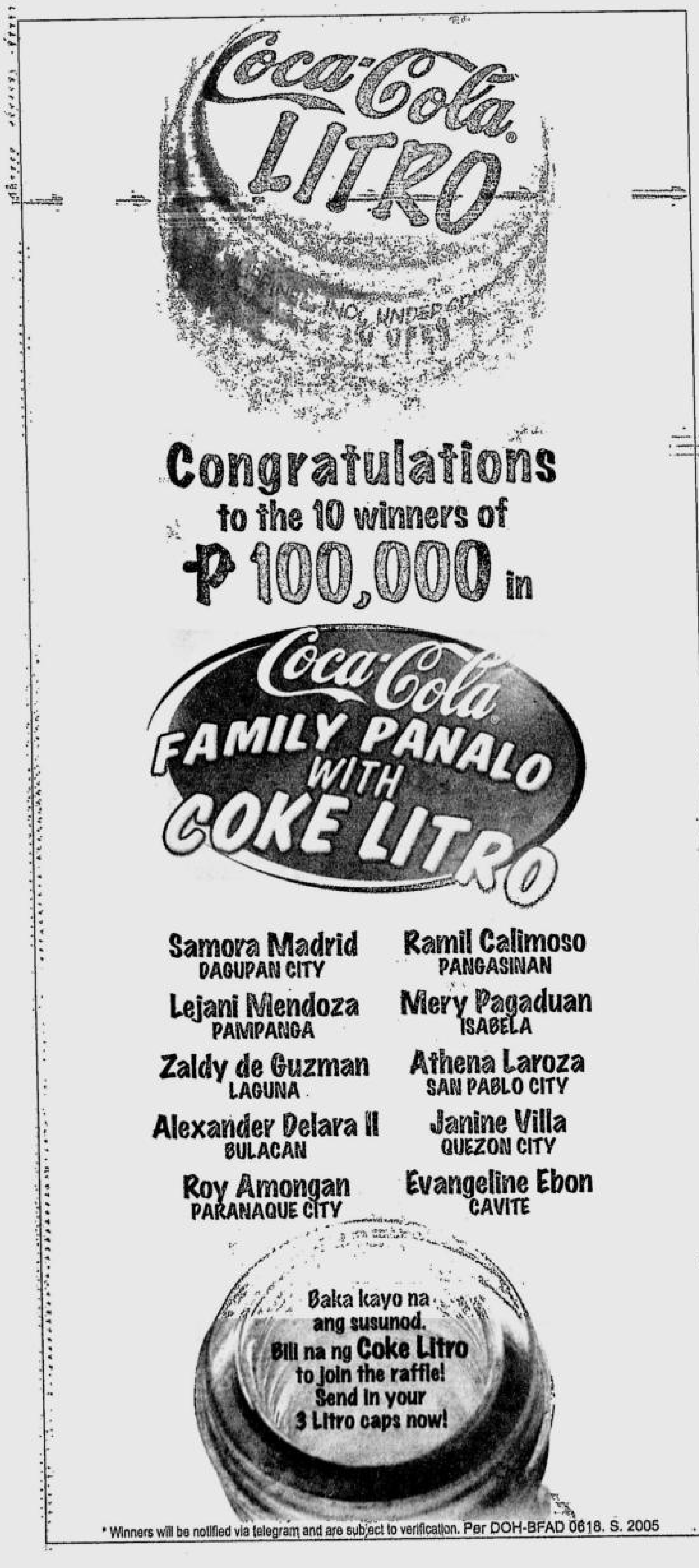
Li, who was not even playing in the match because of injury, and Mo charged the court to fight the Puerto Rico players with just one minute and 28 seconds left on the clock in a game China were winning comfortably 91-80.

Officials abandoned the game after pushing and fighting between the teams spilled into the stands where fans were beginning to get involved in the violence.

"This is the ugliest scene I have ever experienced in my life," said Wang Kai, a 31-year-old fan who came to the gym with his wife. "The Puerto Rico players have travelled more than 30 hours to come to China and they are our guests. As the host team, how can we treat them with such disdain?"

After several minutes of fighting on and off the court, plastic bottles, drinks, and popcorn rained down on the Puerto Rican players, and with three thousand fans chanting abuse the South Americans made their way to the locker room.

The announcer told the crowd the game had been abandoned and pleaded with fans not to throw things. *China Daily/Asia News Network*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Revtex riders clinch 6 wins

AGUILAR

CALTEX-REVTEX, led by superstar Glenn Aguilar, piled up six victories in the Ultimate Motocross Championships in Batangas City recently to fortify its status as the country's best motocross team.

Aguilar, the only Filipino to have won an FIM Asia-Pacific Motocross championship and is an eight-time National Rider of the Year, ruled the Pro Open and 125 categories.

Aguilar and Revtex partner Bebet dela Cruz placed 1-2 before a throng of 25,000 Batangueños in the top two divisions of the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

"As in our past tournaments, whether locally or internationally, Revtex oil again delivered the goods for us," said Aguilar, whose son McLean placed third in the Peewee 7-under division. Other Revtex winners were Giovani Leyva, Jerrick Mitra and the father-and-son tandem of Jun-Jun and Kenneth San Andres.

Kenneth, an eight-time National Mini-Class and Junior Rider of the Year, topped the Expert 125 Class while Jun-Jun ruled the Veterans' Division. Leyva won the Expert Open, while Mitra topped the Peewee 9-Under.

Papgoc seeks Rotary's help

THE PHILIPPINE Asean Para Games Organizing Committee (Papgoc) hopes to tap socio-civic organizations for help when the country hosts the 3rd Asean Para Games set later this year.

Papgoc chair Michael Barredo said the Rotary Club, which had played host to big sporting events for the differently-abled, including the Rotarympics, is expected to back the Para Games set Dec. 14-21.

Barredo said the Philippine Jaycees and Manila Jaycees are also expected to play a big role in the event featuring 10 sports for the differently-abled to be held after the Southeast Asian Games.

"We are seeking the involvement of civic groups such as the Jaycees and Rotary Clubs, not exactly for monetary support, but their assistance in some areas such as communications and other support personnel," said Barredo.

The former PSC commissioner said he would request the civic groups to provide the team leaders for various groups to be composed mainly of volunteers from schools and non-government organizations that will assist delegations coming from 11 countries seeing action in the event supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and the Philippine Sports Commission.

While some interpreters will be provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs, auxiliary personnel from other organizations will come in handy for the event where over 1,000 differently-abled athletes are participating.

HELICOPTER FLYING: The Philippines will compete in the 11th World Championships for F3C R/C Helicopter Flying in Zamora, Spain, on Aug. 2. The team members are Alvin Alcantara (pilot) Mark Alcantara (pilot) JP Reyes (team manager and president of Federation Aeronautique International Phils.) and Shakespeare Chan (mechanic).

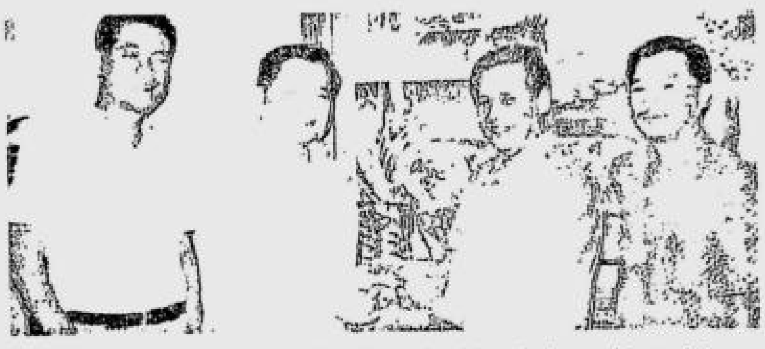
SPORTSWATCH

Sports List features Pacquiao tonight

FILIPINO ring idol Manny Pacquiao sees his Sept. 10 fight against Mexican Hector Velasquez as a mere tune-up for a possible rematch with Mexico's pride Erik Morales in tonight's edition of "The Sports List," a weekly sports show aired every Sunday from 9:15-9:45 p.m. over NBN Channel 4. Produced by Greenline Sports in collaboration with NBN-4, the show hosted by veteran sports journalist Howie Basilio will also feature former swimming queen Akiko Thomson, cycling great Lance Armstrong, the 27th Jones Cup and collegiate wars, an assessment of the Philippine volleyball and chess squads to the 23rd SEA Games and an international sports roundup.

Sorolla-Thai fight on ABC 5 today

THE 10-ROUND battle between RP No. 8 miniflyweight and WBO AsPac contender Benjie Sorolla and Poonsawus Nimitchai of Thailand will be featured in today's Ginebra San Miguel Ringside TV Boxing from 3-4 p.m. on ABC 5. Dubbed "The Ultimate Fight," it is backed by Councilor Joseph "Sep" Juico and presented by Galorde Enterprises Inc. In the supporting clash, Lino Pongan engages Ryan Fermillan in 6 rounds. These bouts are also being shown in the US, Canada and Japan.


SCUAA-BAP TEAM-UP: Jose "Joey" Lina (2nd from left), president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, shakes hands with Prof. Robert Milton Calo, president of the State Colleges and University Athletic Association composed of 115 state colleges. The BAP and the SCUAA signed a memorandum of cooperation to organize the National Junior and Senior Basketball Championship. At left is George Magsino, BAP-SCUAA technical head, and BAP secretary general Graham Lim.

Fistorama features Baclayo-Allanic duel

TANDUAY Fistorama features this afternoon a recent eight-round bout in the flyweight division between Rolando Baclayo and Robert Allanic at the Mandaue Sports Complex in Cebu. It was promoted by Sammy Gello-ani and is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV. The event, supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon, is aired at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m.

Peirsol, Jones set world records

MONTREAL—Aaron Peirsol of the United States broke his own world record in the 200-meter backstroke while Australia's Leisel Jones set a new standard in the 200 breaststroke Friday, both claiming their second gold medals at swimming's World Championships. Piersol finished two seconds ahead of Markus Rogan of Austria. The American finished in 1 minute, 54.66 seconds, eclipsing his old mark of 1:54.74 set at last year's US Olympic trials. Jones, who already won the 100 breaststroke, made it a sweep with a powerful swim in the 200. She clocked 2:21.72, shattering the mark of 2:22.44 set at last year's US Olympic trials by Amanda Beard. *AP*

Southwoods, Alabang share titles

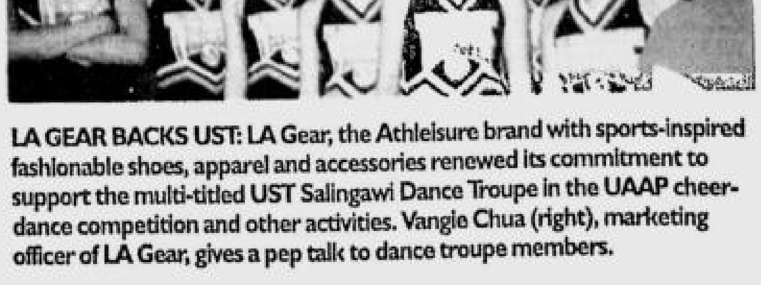
MANILA Southwoods made it three of four in Class A by winning the fourth leg recently while Alabang took the other two divisions contested in the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. Glenda da Roza fired 41 points, Claire Ong and Claudine Garcia each had 40 while Beachie Abiera made 38 as Southwoods posted 159 points to nip Sta. Elena by one in the centerpiece division. Scoring for Sta. Elena were Vinice Godio (42), Rio Co (41), Lucy Sy (38) and Therese Dabao (37). Alabang pulled off runaway victories in Class B and Class C to make up for its sorry showing in Class A. Alabang's Class B squad of Vivian Chua (43), Joyce Duque (43), Lolit Arguelles (39) and Olive Pizarro (38) totaled 163 to beat Sta. Elena by 10 points. The Class C team of Merle Garcia (45), Ana Haurie (42), Tina Javellana (40) and Ofelia Carlos (38) totaled 165 to beat Mt. Malarayat by 19.

NCR dominates Streetball finals

NATIONAL Capital Region, ignoring the loss of its girls' squad to Mindanao, went on to hurdle its opening games in three other divisions in the 2005 adidas Streetball Challenge national finals yesterday before a big weekend crowd at the Festival Mall in Alabang. La Salle-Greenhills sparked NCR's early surge with a 15-9 victory over Mindanao's Ateneo de Davao in junior play with the tandem of Nicolas Salva and Vince Anthony Fran firing seven and four points, respectively. Matthew Wilson Sia added three while Marco Arsenio Yulo had one for the Hubert de los Santos-mentored squad. San Beda bucked the absence of top gun and skipper Rogermar Menor to thump Bgy. MA-A of Mindanao, 23-13, in the centerpiece seniors division of the annual event, sponsored by top sports apparel adidas, which offers berths in the Asian Streetball Finals in September. John Carlos Hermida knocked in three two-pointers, Eduardo Tecson Jr. tossed in 9 points and Jay-R Taganas added four points for NCR-San Beda.

North, South cockers join LGBA forum

COCKERS from South to North have confirmed their participation in the "All About Gamecocks Forum II" on Thursday and Friday (Aug. 4 and 5) at the Sulo Hotel in Quezon City. Registrants include LGBA members Romy Tan, Romy Dalmacio, Alex Chan, Osmund Lambino and Bobby Balberan, Tony Boy Tabora, Mayor Pablo Festejo and Temio Manzano, Mayor Ronald Balaw-as; Ro Dumlao, Alex Ty, Benben de Guzman, Larry and Raffy Tumaliuan, Rep. Manny Andaya and Benjie Sarmiento, Boyet Plaza, Joseph Chua, Boy Vargas, Edmund Yasay and Alwyn Sy, Mayor Alex Enriquez, Rocky Ilagan, Arman Santos and Noel Zoleta. Call 926-7808, 924-5072 or 09205851940 (Taz Lunazco).


LA GEAR BACKS UST: LA Gear, the Athleisure brand with sports-inspired fashionable shoes, apparel and accessories renewed its commitment to support the multi-titled UST Salingawi Dance Troupe in the UAAP cheerdance competition and other activities. Vangie Chua (right), marketing officer of LA Gear, gives a pep talk to dance troupe members.

Life is by stages

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

LIKE the Tour de France, life is also by stages.

In the beginning, it'd be dreams. Just dreams.

Next, ambition. Then fame. Fortune. Power.

The poor and rich go by different routes.

Mostly, the poor just wants money, the rich fame. Money and fame, respectively, are dreams to both.

When the money's there, the poor wants some more: Fortune.

When the wealth is there, the rich wants some more: Fame.

Usually, with fortune comes fame. Sometimes, even with fame and fortune secured, the poor becomes extra ambitious. He'd go for power.

The rich know that by heart.

Fortune is power enough. It can transform man into dog, the principled into a blind follower.

The rich are born to it but not the poor.

Thus, the poor becoming rich is sometimes more dangerous than the born rich. Greed is what would soon topple the poor becoming rich.

Thus, in this country, power is an automatic magnet to many of our rich, the new rich included.

Thus, like moths attracted to light, most of our rich enter politics, or buy corporations/institutions at the flick of a finger and become chair/CEO.

Show me a senator who is poor.

Robert Kuan, the Chowking founder, is St. Luke's chair.

Manny V. Pangilinan, the Smart-TNT owner, is Makati Medical Center chair.

Soon, don't be surprised if Manny Pacquiao, the people's junior lightweight boxing champion, becomes mayor of GenSan.

Oh, yes, Manny Pacquiao, a stowaway at 14, whose power-packed fists were his weapons to gain fame and fortune.

In a striking similarity with Manny Paquiao, Tiger Woods, parenthetically speaking, also used his fists to gain fame and fortune through his golf exploits.

Like Pacquiao, Woods is rich, although Woods' worth, by Forbes Magazine standards, is beyond compare with that of Pacquiao's. Woods's worth could be anywhere between $500 million and $1 billion.

And Pacquiao?

Ah, forget it.

Still, even if, say, Pacquiao is today worth $50 million that will easily be considered a fortune here. That should give Pacquiao 10 lifetimes already when his worth is converted into peso, given the prevailing dollar-peso exchange rate of P56 to a dollar.

But there's no denying the fact Pacquiao has hit the big time.

Because Pacquiao now fights mostly in America, his purses come in dollars. That makes him an instant millionaire by Philippine standards. His recent off the ring victory alone in New York worth $33 million in an out of court settlement with Murad Muhammad, his former promoter/manager, speaks volumes already. Whether he got half of that or not is immaterial. That he won, in dollars at that, is what mattered.

With all that money being poured into his lap like peanuts tossed into a manhole—isn't he also making a movie right now, one that's paid him in the millions?—does Pacquiao still have the motivation to win more fights atop the ring?

While money is the one perk that drives man to aim for the moon, money has also been known to dull desires.

Boxing is a cruel sport. Unlike golf, boxing hurts, bloodies your face, if not cuts brittle brows and busts fragile lips. It also breaks jaws of glass, if not vows of worldly abstinence.

Money and all, Tiger Woods will plod on for that one remaining dream: Break Jack Nicklaus' 18 majors. He's got 10 already and, at 29, Woods is simply too young to abandon that dream, which even Byron Nelson, the legend of another era who is now 93, believes will happen.

But boxing being entirely different from golf, the case of Manny Pacquiao offers a plethora of ambiguities, is a paradox.

With all his money, plus fame, Manny Pacquiao, an adopted son of both Manila and Parañaque, can quit now and still live comfortably with his winnings.

Maybe in his mind, he has quit already. And the movie he is making right now could be the movie in his mind.

But wait, it's not over till it's over. Did I not say about power being part of the stages of a man's odyssey in this world?

Vote Pacquiao for mayor, if not in GenSan, either in Manila or Parañaque.

The election's still about a couple of years from now.

Yes I know, but then, doesn't the early bird get the first worm?

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Woods fires a 61

Gets back into Buick Open contention

GRAND BLANC, Michigan—Tiger Woods shot an 11-under 61 Friday in the second round of the Buick Open, matching the best round of his career and the tournament record.

Woods, who opened with a 71 Thursday, heads into the weekend 12 under, one shot behind defending champion Vijay Singh.

His previous 61s came at the 2000 NEC Invitational and the 1999 Byron Nelson Classic. He tied the Buick Open record Billy Mayfair set in 2001.

The world's top-ranked golfer turned a good round—5-under 31 at the turn—into a spectacular one with an eagle-eagle-birdie-birdie stretch between the 13-16th holes.

"That was a nice little bonus," he said.

The US PGA Tour record is 59, shared by three players. David Duval was the last to shoot 59, in the final round of the 1999 Bob Hope Classic.

Woods became the third PGA Tour player to make consecutive eagles this year. Lee Janzen and Tag Ridings did it at the Bob Hope Classic. He is the fourth to do it at the Buick Open, a tournament that started in 1958.

He is playing in his first tournament in two weeks, since his five-shot victory at the British Open, and two weeks before the PGA Championship, where he'll shoot for his 11th major title. *AP*

WOODS AFP

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Multi Weight Bench Package China BR-12 60" long bar w/ collar and local plates Sale Price P5,500 only! Reg. Price P9,955

Promo period is from July 10 to August 10 of 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3977, Series of 2005.

JB SPORTS SHOWROOMS

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

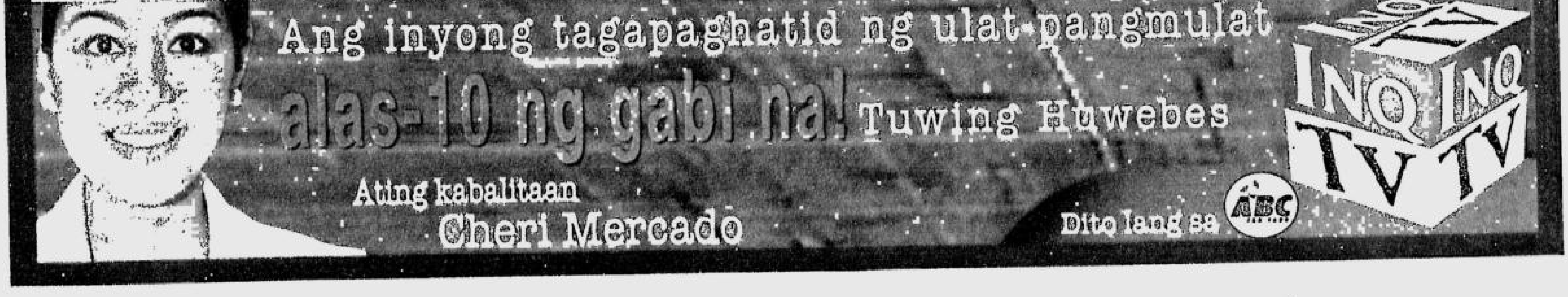
Sunday, July 31, 2005

Laura Jean
club tv
Saturday_8pm
feel_the_vibe
ABC

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN		Value Vision		National Basketball Conference				Kamao		Concert at the Park		Battle Royal		The Sports List	Family Rosary Crusade Seven Decade Of Sin				
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		SCQ Reload		The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K		TV Patrol World	Search For A Star In A Million		Sunday Family Cinema			On Stage
ABC 5		Ringside		PBA										Mutya Coronation Night/ Asian 9 Ball Swing/ Maxmedia Specials					
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love			S-Files			Bubble Gang Jr.		Mahiwagang Baul		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fistorama		WWE Experience		WWE PPV		Navy Nds		Without A Trace		Celebrity Poker Showdown				The Working President	Ugnayan
IBC 13		4th Asian University Basketball Championship				Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Shakey's V-League					TM Phil 9-Ball	Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
SBN 21		Gabay At Aksyon		Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon		SBN Sing Along	
Studio 23			Stoplight TV	BYK 101	Hotwire TV	Top Gear	Game Plan	Nainija: The Hidden Files		Y Speak		Two & A Half Men	Joey	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Expat Adventure		Fastlane
MTV Philippines	MTV Lokal Mishka Adams	Cribs # 1111	Spankin New DVD The White Stripes	Spankin New DVD New Found Glory	Carmen & Dave # 103	Punk'd # 401	Pimp My Ride # 205	Spring Break 05 Eston & Barrymore	MTV Screen	MTV Play	Alanis' Diamond Wink, Honoring The 10th Anniversary Of Jagged Little Pill		VH1 Behind The Music Britney Spears		Wade Robson # 109	Fake ID Club 2005	Rockola	MTV Play	Spankin New DVD Nirvana
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Firsts	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Hit Chart				My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	Global Office	Talk Asia	Next@CNN
ESPN				Classic Boxing		World Snooker Tour Embassy World Champs						X Games Invitational	U.S. Senior Open Golf C'ship 3rd rd.						2005 Espy Awards
Solar Sports				WTA '05 Hastings Direct Int'l Champ														NBA TV Daily	NBA Inside Stuff
Sports Plus								Raceworld			Tour De France	Celebrity Poker				Tour De France			
Cinemax				Fever (4:15PM)				Flashdance			Momentum			Battlestar Galactica Mission 4			Hollywood Homicide		
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	Reversible Errors				Reversible Errors				Regenesis		Regenesis					Category 6: Day Of Destruction		
Disney Channel	Recess	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Lizzie Mcguire	Wicked Science	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	That's So Raven	American Dragon	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Get A Clue			Mr. Bean	That's So Raven	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Clubhouse Detectives Scavenger Hunt	
Discovery Channel		Science Mysteries		American Chopper		Extreme Engineering		Mummy Autopsy		Crossings		Cathay Pacific Signature Series		Rome- Lost City Of China		The FBI Files		Power Zone	
National Geographic		The Mafia		Best Of The Week		Wild Family Secrets	Wild Orphans	Hot Science		Air Crash Investigation		Megastructures		Seconds From Disaster		The Mafia		Best Of The Week	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Mysteries	Police Academy	The Detective Squad	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Winx Club	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Samurai Jack	Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Looney Tunes Show		Cartoon Cartoon Show Ed	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Crush Gear Nitro	Justice League	Space Ghost Coast to Coast	Space Ghost Coast to Coast
Nickelodeon	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Tao Shu The Warrior Boy	Lat, The Kampung Boy	The Adventures Of Tenali Raman	Rugrats	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Romeo	Girls In Love	Naturally Sadie	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special Personal Chefs		E! Entertainment Special Top 10 Hottest Bachelor		Antonio- Hearts Under Fire				Style Star	It's Good To Be
Star World		The Apprentice		Hollywood Shootout	Arrested Development	Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	One Tree Hill		The Simpsons	Kumars At 42	Oprah Prime Time		Parkinson		Little Britain		The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time
AXN				Rollerball				AXN Shakedown		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Ultimate Guinness World Records	Fear Factor (Season V)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI: NY (Season I)		CSI: Miami	
JackTV		Reno 911	Banzai	X-Play	Sweat	Street Smarts	The Sib Show	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Afterburn		WWE Smackdown				Shorties Watching Shorties	The Man Show	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	Beat The Geeks
ETC	Will & Grace	Saturday Night Live		Veronica Mars		American Dreams		One Tree Hill		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Average Joe		Rated Oh!	The Insider Weekend	Outback Jack		ET Weekend	
HBO		Blue Crush (3:05 PM)				Wilder Days (4:50PM)			Changing Lanes (6:25 PM)			Something's Gotta Give				Gothika (10:10PM)			Wolf (11:45PM)
Star Movies	Femme Fatale			Die Hard (4:15 PM)					The League Of Extraordinary Gentlemen				Opening Night	Cheaper By The Dozen			Sneakers (10:45PM)		
Cinema One				Feng Shui				Oops Teka Lang, Diskarte Ko 'To!				My Movie							
EWTN	Defending Life	Angelus (3:15 PM)	EWTN Bookmark	Adventures In Odyssey	Faith Factory D	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Global Showcase		Octavia Dies	Fr. John Corapi		Sunday Mass				The World Over	Life Is Worth Living	Mother Angelica Live Classics	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



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GUARANTEED SEATS
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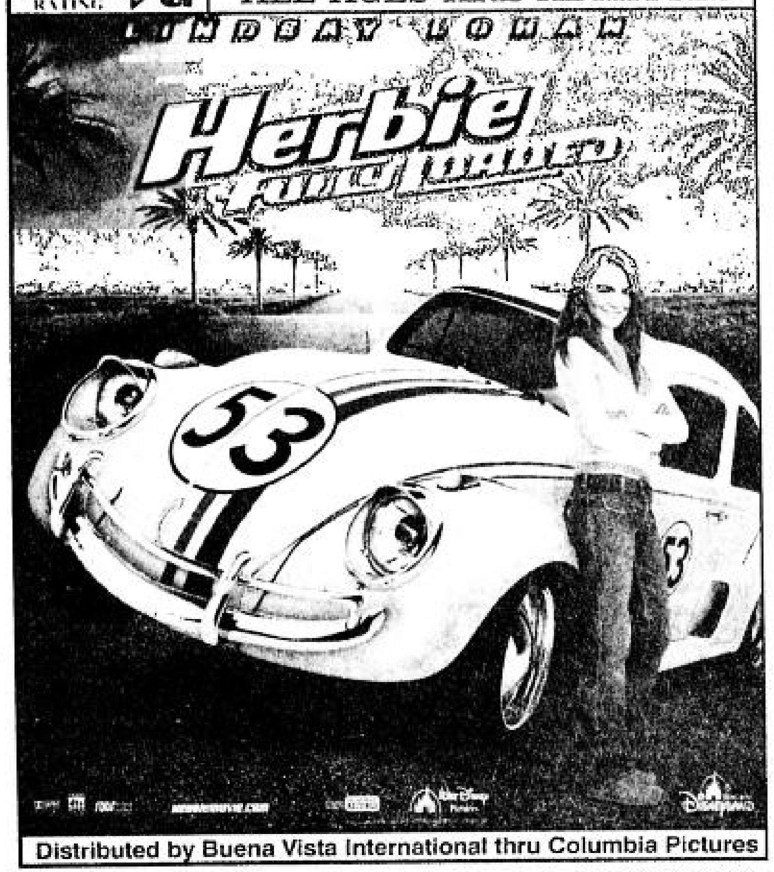
1	THE ISLAND	11:20, 2:20, 5:20 8:20, 11:00 PG-13
2	STEALTH	11:00, 2:00, 5:00 8:00, 11:00 PG-13
3	WEDDING CRASHERS	11:55, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:35 PG-13
4	D' ANOTHERS	12:40, 3:00, 5:00 7:40, 10:00 GP

3RD WEEK!

MTRCB RATING ▶ G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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NOW SHOWING

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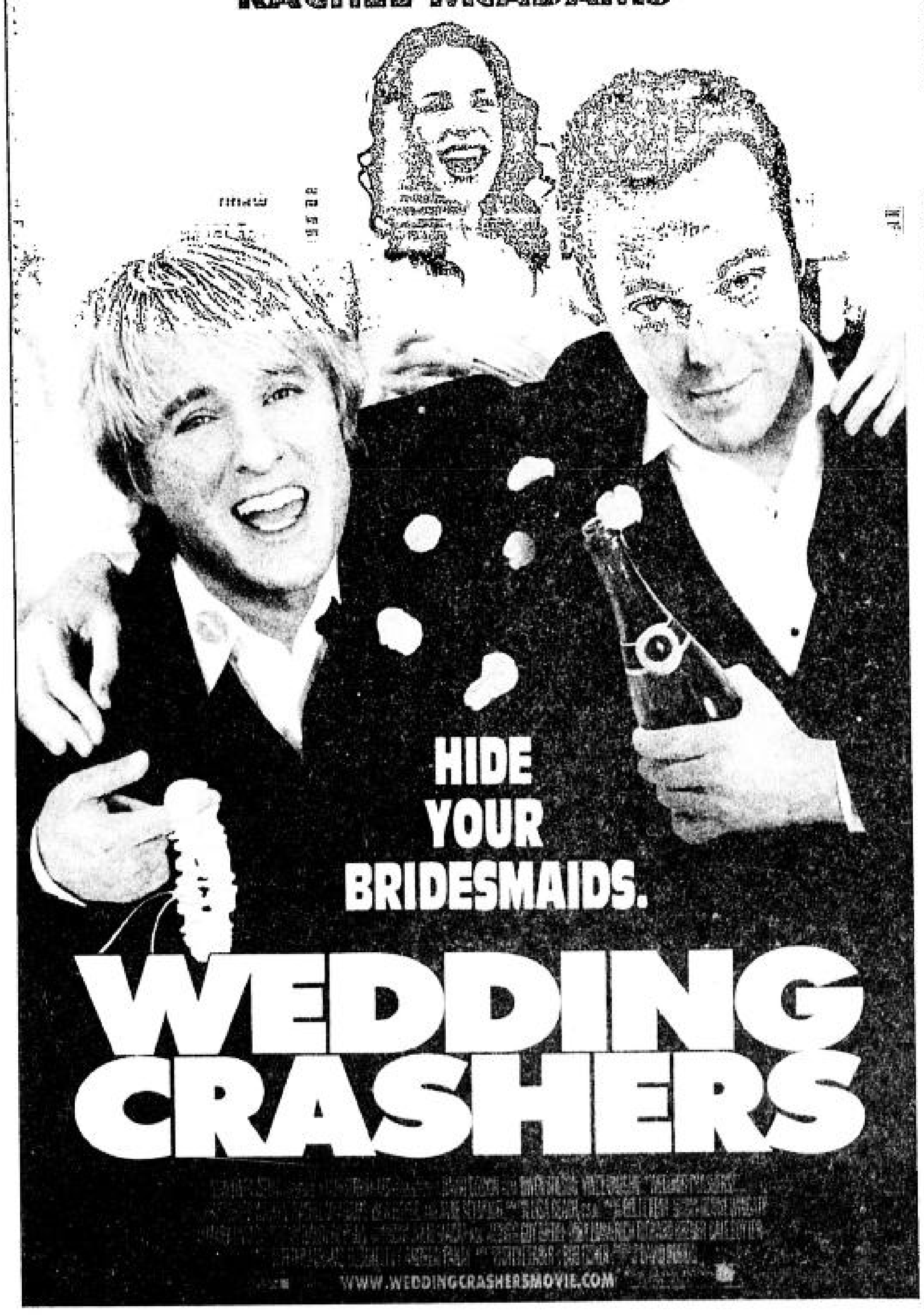
OWEN WILSON VINCE VAUGHN
RACHEL McADAMS



ENTERTAINMENT

5TH "FEAR THE SKY" DAY!

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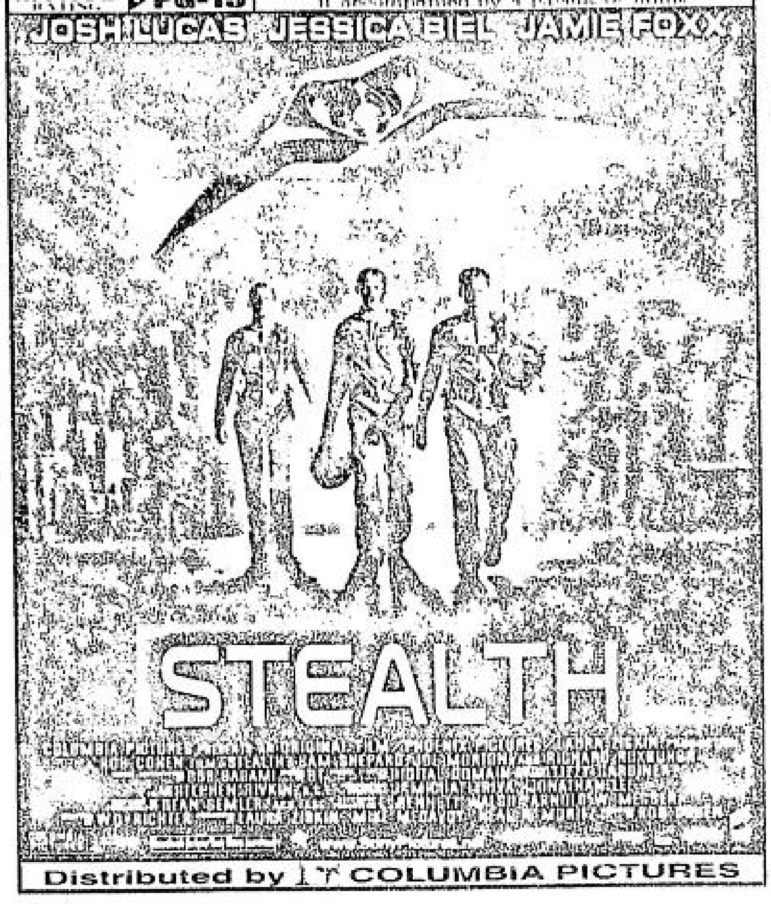

JOSH LUCAS JESSICA BIEL JAMIE FOXX
STEALTH

Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

TOPBILLERS Ogie Alcasid, Janno Gibbs, Joey de Leon, Richard Gomez

SOP CAST led by German Moreno, Janno Gibbs and Jaya

GMA Pinoy TV's SF launch on SOP today

ON JULY 23, GMA 7 officially launched its Pinoy TV international channel in the United States mainland via a star-studded concert at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco, California.

Today, the concert will be aired on the station's noontime variety show, "SOP." The live audience at the BGCA reportedly exceeded the 7,000 capacity by about 1,000.

Aptly dubbed "SOP in SanFo: The GMA Pinoy TV USA Launch," the concert starred Regine Velásquez, Jaya, Janno Gibbs, Ogie Alcasid, Richard Gomez, Rufa Mae Quinto, Joey De Leon, German Moreno and Mel Tiangco; plus Jolina Magdangal, Dingdong Dantes, Karylle, KC Montero, Gabby Eigenmann, Malik, Chynna Ortaleza, Mark Herras, Jennylyn Mercado, and Richard and Raymond Gutierrez.

TWO PROUD RACES
BROTHERS-IN-ARMS
A DARING MISSION
THAT WILL EARN THEM THE RESPECT
AND ADMIRATION OF THE ENTIRE WORLD
PROUD TO BE A FILIPINO

Cesar Montano as Capt. Juan Pajota

The Real Capt. Juan Pajota

CAPTAIN JUAN PAJOTA

While Capt. **Robert Prince** was the brains and Lt. Col. **Henry Mucci** the sheer force behind the Cabanatuan rescue mission, it was USAFFE guerrilla leader **Capt. Juan Pajota** who was able to bring the rescue plan to reality. **Capt. Pajota** knew the land, had the trust of local villagers and commanded the local guerrilla forces. He prevailed upon villagers to muzzle their barking dogs the night of the raid; he came up with the clever idea of evacuating the weak and feeble prisoners on water buffalo carts; and he and his men held Japanese forces off at a bridge while the Rangers and POWs made their historic trek back to safety.

Resourceful, Organized, Imaginative

By all accounts he was a natural leader and a brilliant tactician. **Robert Lapham**, the American USAFFE guerrilla leader, called him "a very unflamboyant guy with a natural bent for leadership. He was resourceful, organized and extremely imaginative."

"Suicide"

Pajota had the one thing **Lt. Col. Mucci** lacked: information. He had intelligence on the Japanese movements within and around the camp. At their first meeting, **Mucci** was impatient; his men were ready, he wanted to move. **Pajota** was unflappable. Learning that **Mucci** was determined to stage the raid that very evening, **Pajota** clearly and simply informed **Mucci**, "Sir, with all due respect, that is suicide." Pajota explained that the Japanese would have large numbers of troops and trucks on the roads that evening. At first, Mucci was undeterred. However, upon receiving similar intelligence from his own Alamo Scouts, **Mucci** was forced to concur with Pajota. He delayed the raid 24 hours

A Perfect Plan

In the planning stages, **Pajota** offered **Mucci** a novel tactical strategy one that would give the raid an element of surprise and cover at the same time. **Pajota** suggested using airplanes to fly over the camp and distract the Japanese guards moments before the raid. Mucci instantly liked the sound of it. The aircraft would just be up there, looping and droning, and turning, flummoxing the guards, commanding attention. The plan worked to perfection. The planes provided cover for the Rangers as they made their way into position near the camp gates.

CESAR MONTANO BENJAMIN BRATT CONNIE NIELSEN JOSEPH FIENNES JAMES FRANCO

THE GREAT RAID

Based on a True Story

MIRAMAX

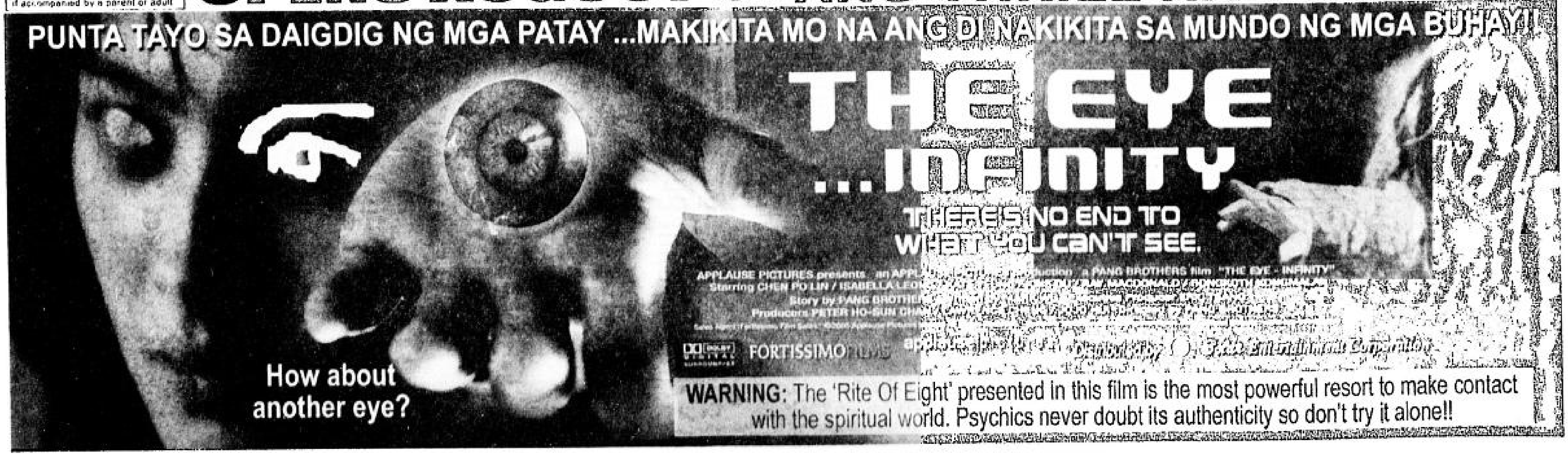
DID YOU KNOW...

Love that Echo!

During ABS-CBN's "Kapamilya Summer Caravan" event in Pasadena's Rose Bowl Stadium, Jericho "Echo" Rosales reached out to fans more than most of the other stars, going out of his way to hug some who risked injury just to get close to him.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

OPENS AUGUST 3! WAG KUKURAP, ETO NA ANG THRILL NA TRIP MO!!!


PUNTA TAYO SA DAIGDIG NG MGA PATAY ...MAKIKITA MO NA ANG DI NAKIKITA SA MUNDO NG MGA BUHAY!
THE EYE ...INFINITY
THERE'S NO END TO WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE.
How about another eye?
FORTISSIMO FILMS

WARNING: The 'Rite Of Eight' presented in this film is the most powerful resort to make contact with the spiritual world. Psychics never doubt its authenticity so don't try it alone!!

RP may soon be off pirates list

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE MOTION Picture Association-International (MPA) has recommended that the Philippines be stricken off the United States' watch list of intellectual property rights violators.

INQUIRER Entertainment got this piece of good news from Optical Media Board (OMB) chair Edu Manzano on Friday, a few hours after his group conducted a raid in Quiapo, Manila.

The Philippines is one of 15 countries that the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) identified as violator of international laws on intellectual property protection.

According to the IIPA report submitted to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) on Feb. 11, other countries on the watch list are Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Kuwait, Lebanon, the People's Republic of China, South Korea, and Thailand.

Impressed

Members of the MPA and the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) joined some 150 personnel of the Philippine National Police (PNP) Special Action Force to "observe" the raid on Friday, said Manzano.

"They were impressed with how we are regulating the manufacture and retail of fake VCDs (video compact discs) and DVDs (digital video discs)," Manzano said in a phone interview.

The MPA delegates have come from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand, he added.

"This is definitely a big step in the right direction," Manzano said. "But, of course, piracy does not involve only optical media. This also concerns pirated Louis Vuittons, Chanels and Pradas. We should all help fight this."

P1-M reward

Manzano said the OMB and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) would grant financial rewards of up to P1 million for information that would lead to the uncovering of big-time piracy operations, especially in the software industry. "We shall launch this project in the second or third week of August," he added.

The raid at the Muslim Barter Trade Center in Quiapo yielded three 10-wheeler trucks of pirated materials. At press time, the OMB is still determining how much the confiscated items were worth, said the OMB chief.

The operation started at 10:15 a.m., according to Manzano. The OMB team had 76 search warrants signed by Judge Antonio Eugenio of the Manila Regional Trial Court. The Special Action Force was headed by Gen. Marcelo Franco.

Manzano said tension at the trade center was easily diffused, very much unlike what happened during last year's raid in Virra Mall, Greenhills, where seven persons were injured, including six agents of the OMB. "This is because we now have a good relationship with our Muslim brothers," explained Manzano.

OPENS AUGUST 10
MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
LAUGH-OUT-LOUD ROMANTIC COMEDY
Nicole Kidman Will Ferrell
Bewitched
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STEALTH 12:40/2:30/3:10/5:00/5:40/7:30/8:10/10:00	STEALTH 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20
WEDDING CRASHERS 12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20	
IF ONLY 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00	THE ISLAND 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50
D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:30	FANTASTIC FOUR 12:40 / 2.55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40
WAR OF THE WORLDS 1.30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	HERBIE: FULLY LOADED 12:50 / 3.00 / 5.10 / 7:20 / 9:30

ALI MALL CINEMAS

❶ D' ANOTHERS 11:25 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	❹ THE ISLAND 12.30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30
❷ STEALTH 11:45 / 2:35 / 5:25 / 8:15	❺ WEDDING CRASHERS 12:00 / 2:50 / 5:40 / 8:30
❸ FANTASTIC FOUR 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:50	DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS

July 31 UST vs NU Jrs 10am FEU vs DLSU Jrs 12nn UST vs NU Srs 2pm FEU vs DLSU Srs 4pm	UAAP - NCAA ALL STAR GAMES August 13, Saturday
MTV PILIPINAS 2005 August 25, Thursday 8 pm	CUSA BASKETBALL LEAGUE August 26, Friday OPENING GAMES

CENTER EVENTS

PROMOS	*Araneta Center Hoopla raffle promo ongoing until October 14. Watch a game at the Coliseum + Buy a Sim Pack + Shop at Araneta Center for a chance to win trips to Singapore, Thailand, Cebu, Bohol, Boracay, Palawan & Puerto Galeral Plus 10 Nokia cellphones and 25 iPods!*
	Araneta Center & LRT 2 Ride & Dine promo ongoing until October 19. Buy an LRT stored value card & get P350 worth of FREE food items at the Gateway Food Express!

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1 STEALTH
12:35FS/01:05MF/03:40/06:15
08:15LFS/09:00LMF/11:00END
2 WEDDING CRASHERS
03:30FS/04:00MF/06:25
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:55END

manila
FANTASTIC FOUR
10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20/07:30
09:15LFS/09:40LMF/11:40END

cebu (032) 231-3876
1 FANTASTIC OUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4 STEALTH
5 THE ISLAND
6 THE MACHINIST
7 WEDDING CRASHER
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
10 FANTASTIC FOUR
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 CINEMA ONE ORIGINALS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
D' ANOTHERS
3 NEW POLICE STORY
4 THE ISLAND
WEDDING CRASHERS
6 D' ANOTHERS
STEALTH
8 FANTASTIC FOUR
9 WAR OF THE WORLDS
10 IF ONLY
11 MR. & MRS. SMITH
12 EVIL DEAD

SM NORTH EDSA
STEALTH
IF ONLY
WEDDING CRASHERS
4 D' ANOTHERS
D' ANOTHERS
6 MAN OF THE HOUSE
THE ISLAND
FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY MANILA
THE MACHINIST
THE ISLAND
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
STEALTH
WAR OF THE WORLDS
6 FANTASTIC FOUR
WEDDING CRASHERS
8 IF ONLY
9 D'ANOTHERS
CAMPUS GHOST STORY
EVIL DEAD
D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY STA MESA
1 STEALTH
WEDDING CRASHERS
3 THE ISLAND
4 D' ANOTHERS
D'ANOTHERS
6 ICE PRINCESS
FANTASTIC FOUR
8 IF ONLY
9 NEW POLICE STORY
THE MACHINIST

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUR
4 WEDDING CRASHERS
5 NEW POLICE STORY
6 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS
IF ONLY
THE ISLAND
10 D' ANOTHERS

SM SAN LAZARO
STEALTH
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE ISLAND
WEDDING CRASHERS
IF ONLY
6 D'ANOTHERS

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 WEDDING CRASHERS
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 STEALTH
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY BICUTAN
STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
WEDDING CRASHERS
THE ISLAND

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
STEALTH
2 EVIL DEAD
THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR
NEW POLICE STORY
D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY BACOOR
1 FANTASTIC FOUR
2 IF ONLY
3 STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
5 THE ISLAND
6 D'ANOTHERS
NEW POLICE STORY
8 WAR OF THE WORLDS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
THE ISLAND
D'ANOTHERS
EVIL DEAD
STEALTH

SM CITY LUCENA
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
2 D'ANOTHERS
THE ISLAND
4 FANTASTIC FOUR

SM CITY BAGUIO
D' ANOTHERS
2 THE ISLAND
3 MONSTER-IN-LAW
HOUSE OF WAX

SM CITY MARILAO
1 STEALTH
D'ANOTHERS
D' ANOTHERS
4 THE ISLAND

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 D'ANOTHERS
3 FANTASTIC FOUE
4 NEW POLICE STORY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
FANTASTIC FOUR
2 THE ISLAND
3 STEALTH
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
5 CREEP
6 NEW POLICE STORY
7 D' ANOTHERS
8 D' ANOTHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
MEW POLICE STORY
RESERVED
FANTASTIC FOUR
D'ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
6 THE ISLAND
RESERVED
8 HOTEL RWANDA

SM CITY DAVAO
STEALTH
D' ANOTHERS
3 D'ANOTHERS
CREEP
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
THE ISLAND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
NEW POLICE STORY
D'ANOTHERS
HERBIE: FULLY LOADED
4 THE ISLAND

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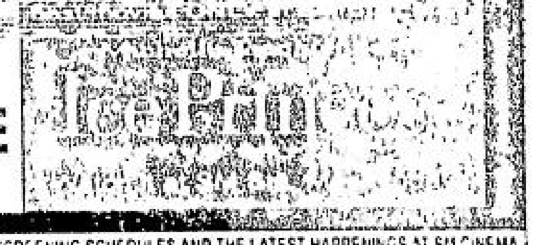
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A Broadway debut for Julia Roberts

NEW YORK—Injecting a toothsome dose of A-list Hollywood star power to the 2005-6 theater season, Julia Roberts is coming to Broadway next spring in a revival of Richard Greenberg's generational drama "Three Days of Rain."

The production, expected to be a limited run of 12 weeks, will start performances in March under the direction of Joe Mantello ("Wicked," "Glengarry Glen Ross") at a Shubert theater to be named, said Marc Platt and David Stone, the play's producers. No additional casting or creative staff for the three-person play—made up of two men and one pretty woman—was announced.

Roberts, an Oscar winner for "Erin Brockovich" (2000) and a box-office force for nearly two decades, said Thursday afternoon that she was fulfilling a dream by coming to Broadway and that her nerves were already alight.

"By the time I get there, I'll be entirely apoplectic," Roberts said in a phone interview from her home in Los Angeles. "But the terror is part of the excitement."

The production came together over the last six weeks or so, after a reading in late June in Los Angeles by Mantello, who was there to stage a production of "Wicked." Mantello, who directed Greenberg's "Take Me Out," is considered Broadway's most bankable director. (He will stage the nearly sold-out revival of "The Odd Couple," with Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, this fall.) He said he had no doubt that Roberts would succeed on stage, despite almost no theater experience.

The play, which — like Roberts — has never been seen on Broadway, was first staged in New York in 1997 at the Manhattan Theater Club.

New York Times

JULIA is "excited." AP

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MTRCB: PG-13
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③ HERBIE FULLY LOADED
MTRCB: GP
12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00

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MTRCB: PG-13
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THE ISLAND PG13 12:55,4:00,7:00,10:00	THE MACHINIST R13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	STEALTH PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:20

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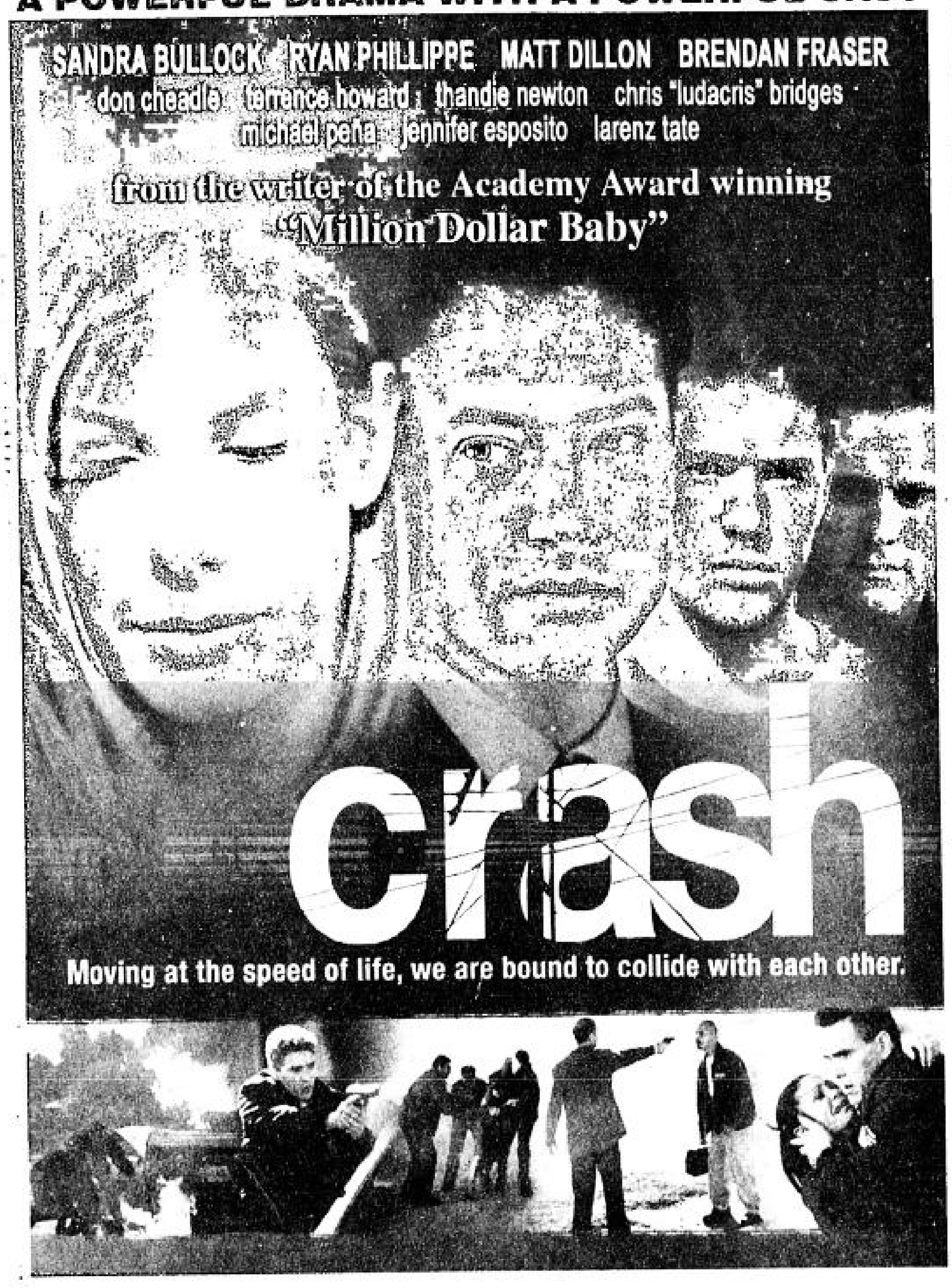

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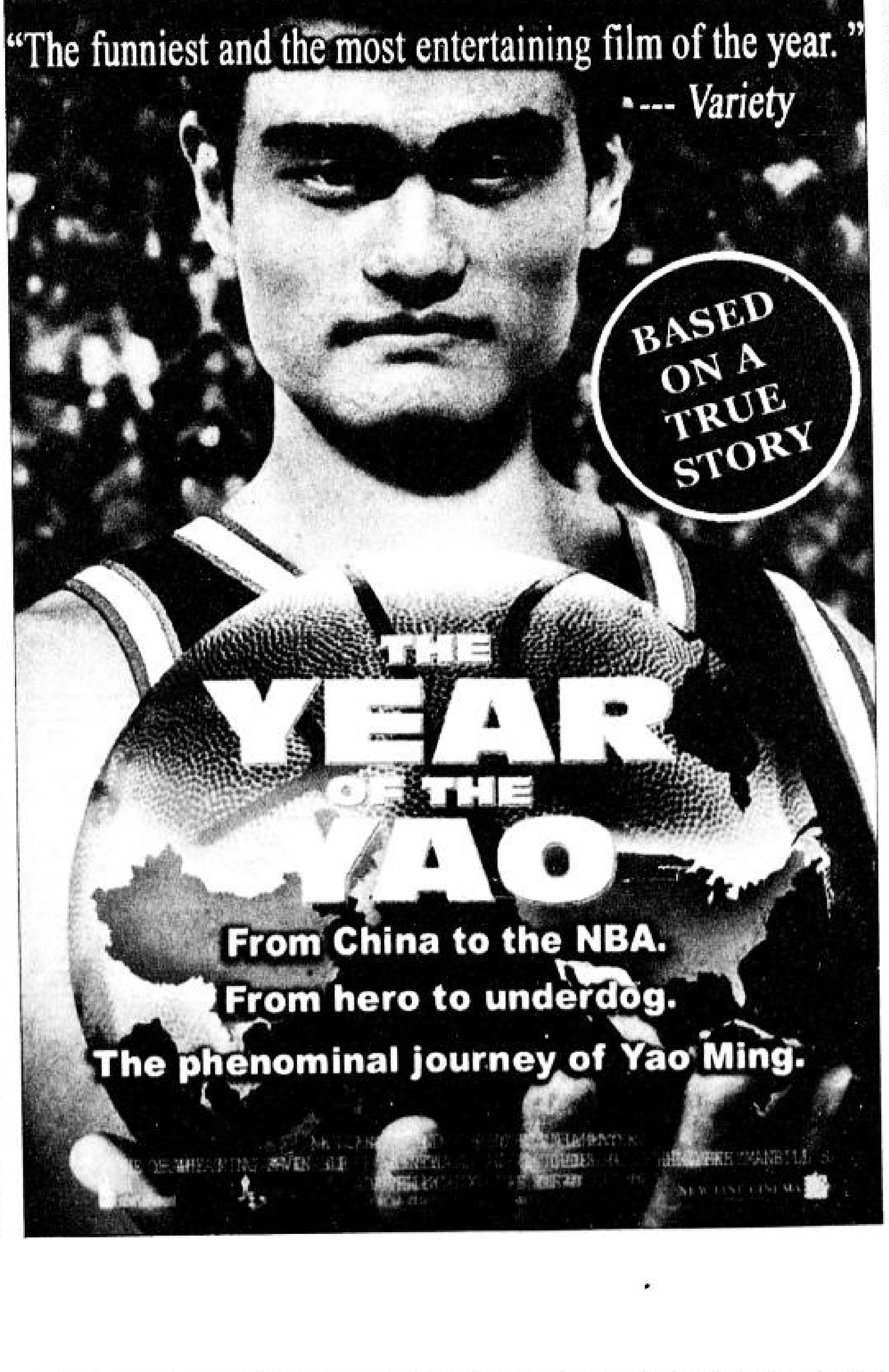

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Cinema	Times
1 STEALTH • THX	1:15 4:00 6:45 9:30
2 THE ISLAND	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
3 MACHINIST	12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
4 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
5 STEALTH	11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
6 WEDDING CRASHERS	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 WAR OF THE WORLDS	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
8 IF ONLY	12:30 2:55 5:20 7:45 10:00
9 D' ANOTHERS	12:00 2:05 4:10 6:25 9:40
10 NEW POLICE STORY	12:00 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

Cinema	Times
1 STEALTH	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 D' ANOTHERS	12:30 2:45 5:00 7:15 9:40
3 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
4 IF ONLY	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
5 WEDDING CRASHERS	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
6 THE ISLAND	12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
7 THE MACHINIST	12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

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Cinema	Times
1 THE ISLAND	12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
2 SHANGHAI LILY	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
3 HERBIE: FULLY LOADED	1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00
4 IF ONLY	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
5 FANTASTIC FOUR	12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00
6 WEDDING CRASHERS	12:00 2:35 5:15 7:55 10:30
7 STEALTH	2:10 5:00 7:50 10:30
8 D' ANOTHERS	1:45 4:10 6:35 9:00

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GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 STEALTH 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	2					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX STEALTH 2:30, 5:10, 7.50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX WEDDING CRASHERS 1 40, 4.05, 6:30, 8:55, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 STEALTH 12:45, 3 25, 6 05, 8 45, 11 25 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 IF ONLY 1:50, 4 00, 6 10, 8 20, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE ISLAND 2 30, 5 10, 7 50, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
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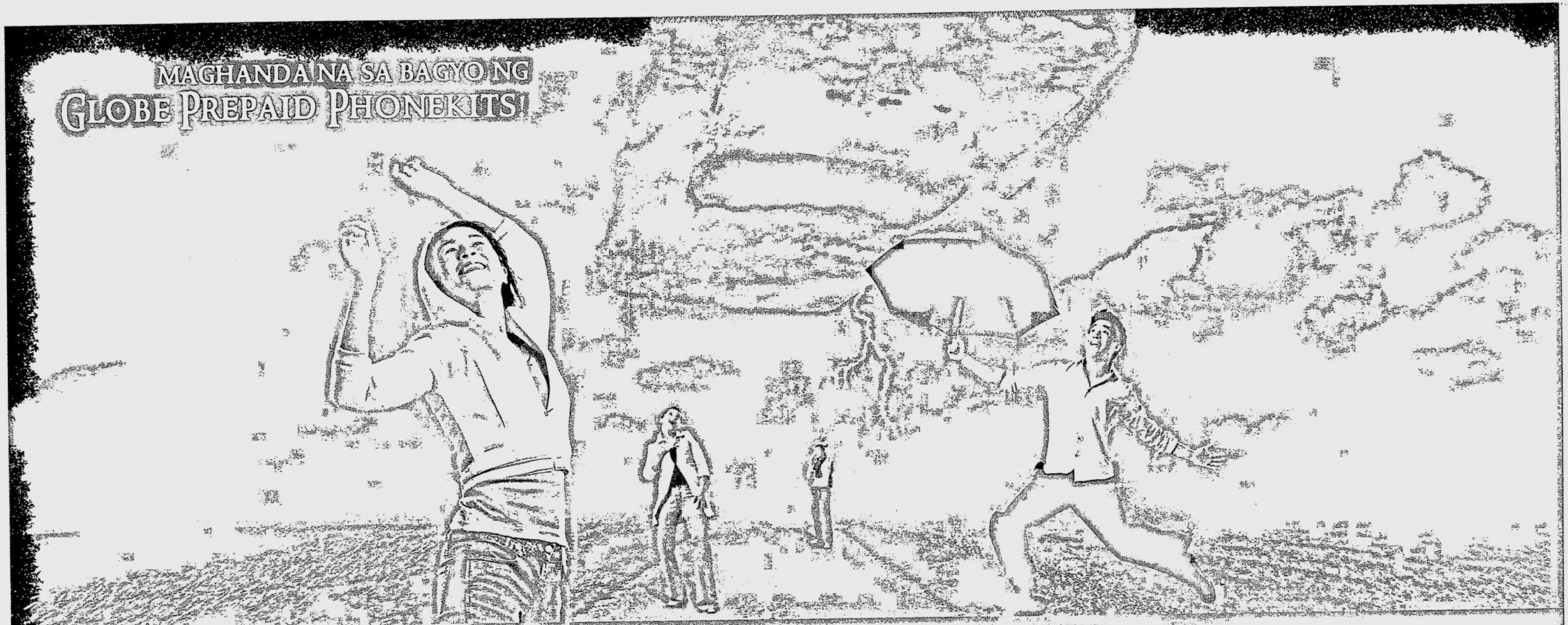

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Mig's tribute to 'Lola'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

MY MAN MIG: LA correspondent Ruben Nepales campaigns for Pinoy-Aussie rocker.

JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

MIAMI, FLORIDA—First, a couple of good news happening elsewhere before we tell you about our interviews in this beautiful city on the opposite side of LA:

Mig Ayesa told us about his beloved Lola Gigi when we met him recently in his "Rock Star: INXS" dressing room. Who could have thought that the Kinks' song about a transvestite, "Lola," could be used as a rock tribute to a grandma, as Mig did to winning effect in last Tuesday's performance night of the reality show?

The Pinoy-Aussie contestant wrote in a recent blog: "The neat thing I did was to choose the song 'Lola.' It wasn't even one of my top five choices, but if it meant that next week, I will be able to choose any song, then I am happy for the trade. 'Lola' is a classic, but I've worked out a new arrangement with the house band. 'Lola' also means grandmother in Tagalog, so this song is dedicated to my Gigi, who was my *lola* and to celebrate my Filipino connection. I just need to make it work, show spontaneity and survive the coming week's elimination show."

Work the song Mig did and now, with only eight contestants left (not one, but two, were booted out last Wednesday), he is tantalizingly closer to a shot at becoming the winner in this reality series to find a new vocalist for the Aussie band, INXS. Mig asked us to relay his plea to you, dear readers—please vote for him every week. Log on to www.rockstar.msn.com to find out how.

H'wood's sexiest

We just met the sexiest, sultriest actress in Hollywood. And she is... Sofia Vergara. This Colombian stunner used to date Enrique Iglesias. When I asked if she knew about Enrique's Filipino heritage, Sofia told me in her throaty voice, "Yes, of course—his mother is a Filipina."

The photographers in our group have trained their camera lenses on virtually all the female hotties in Hollywood but when Sofia walked in at a New York hotel function room, wearing a tight gold dress, the guys went nuts. For some reason, they wanted to rename her Sofia Viagra.

A little backgrounder—a photo showing Sofia holding hands with a pre-Katie Holmes Tom Cruise was splashed all over the world. She is deglamorized in John Singleton's new Mark Wahlberg drama, "Four Brothers" but in person, she wouldn't look dowdy (no, not at all) in the company of my Hollywood's Most Gorgeous Babes list: Charlize Theron, Catherine Zeta Jones, Angelina Jolie and Ashley Judd.

Sofia is fun to talk to as well. When a photographer asked why Tom Cruise didn't find a part for her in "Mission Impossible 3," she laughed and teased, "I don't know. (He's) not very intelligent, I guess."

She downplayed the significance of that photo with Tom: "I wasn't dating him. He's just a friend of mine."

Just a friend

On her relationship with Enrique, she said, "That was a long time ago, when I was young and innocent."

This 33-year-old mom to a boy, 13, is a natural blonde. Sofia revealed that when she dyed her hair dark to go with the stereotype of Latina beauties, more acting jobs came her way.

In "Four Brothers," Sofia plays the girlfriend of one of the adoptive siblings (singer-actor Tyrese Gibson; the other three are Mark, Outkast's Andre Benjamin and Garrett Hedlund). Singleton, while tackling this violent tale of a family avenging the murder of their adoptive mother, gets to include some light touches, like Sofia's character finding a creative use for a washing machine with Tyrese.

When we quipped that we would never look at a washing machine the same way again, Sofia chortled and agreed: "Me too. I was lucky that scene was shot at the end of the filming [when] I was [already] comfortable with everyone, the actors and the camera crew. For me, that scene was a comedy. Every time the director said, 'Okay, get on top of the thing,' I couldn't even say my lines because I felt so stupid. I felt ridiculous in that washing machine. But when I saw the completed movie, I thought it was a cute scene."

Another writer followed up with this question, of course: Does Sofia recommend the spin dry cycle? "I haven't tried it for real so I can't really talk from experience," she dished out with a laugh. "I'll get back to you on that one because I'm sure somebody's going to ask me at some point of my life to redo the scene."

But I kid you not—Tyrese sang a composition to us titled "Washing Machine" which he later told me he was going to include in an upcoming CD. He must have been really inspired by the machine and oh yes, Sofia, too.

Incidentally, when I was introduced to Andre, aka Andre 3000 of Outkast, of course I couldn't help but tell him, "Hey ya!" Sedate when he is Andre the Actor, not his flamboyant musical alter ego, he admitted to me that "Hey Ya!" was a "once in a lifetime thing" and that Outkast probably would not be able to top this award-winning monster hit.

Although the setting was the beautiful Mandarin Oriental Miami overlooking Florida's Biscayne Bay, faraway Bondi Beach in Sydney, Australia dominated our press con with "Stealth" stars Josh Lucas and Jessica Biel and director Rob Cohen. This year's Oscar best actor winner, Jamie Foxx, who co-stars in this war drama-thriller, was unavailable. He was off shooting a new film somewhere in this city that's hot and humid yet it's a paradise.

"Stealth," about three ace pilots (Josh, Jamie and Jessica) who are joined in their dangerous missions by a fourth partner, an unmanned stealth fighter jet, begins with a shot of an aircraft carrier identified as being in "the Philippine seas." Director Rob told me that the scene was actually filmed off Thailand.

Naked women

The movie was also shot in China and New Zealand but Australia subbed for several of the countries shown in "Stealth." And that's how the world-famous Bondi Beach figured prominently in this interview.

Josh explained: "I lived on Bondi Beach (during the filming). It was difficult because I was in a relationship at the time (with actress Salma Hayek). You walk out and there would literally be naked women lying in your front yard. So I spent a lot of time gazing and swimming (laughter)." He turned red with this admission. It was easy to picture this handsome actor with the piercing blue eyes pretending to be serious and swimming while looking at the bare flesh all around him.

Josh, whom we saw recently with Jessica Lange and Christian Slater in the Broadway revival of "The Glass Menagerie," revealed an additional role of Mr. Foxx, who is a legendary party boy: "Jamie was, without a doubt, the social director of the film. I'd show up on the set and Jamie has brought back 12 beautiful women from Bondi Beach."

All this talk about nudity on the beach made Josh reminisce: "The first time I ever went to a nude beach was with my father. My father and I were on a trip to look at colleges where I could enroll. One time he said, we're going to the beach today. I was like, okay, fine. I was about 16 years old. So we go

MIG/A2-3

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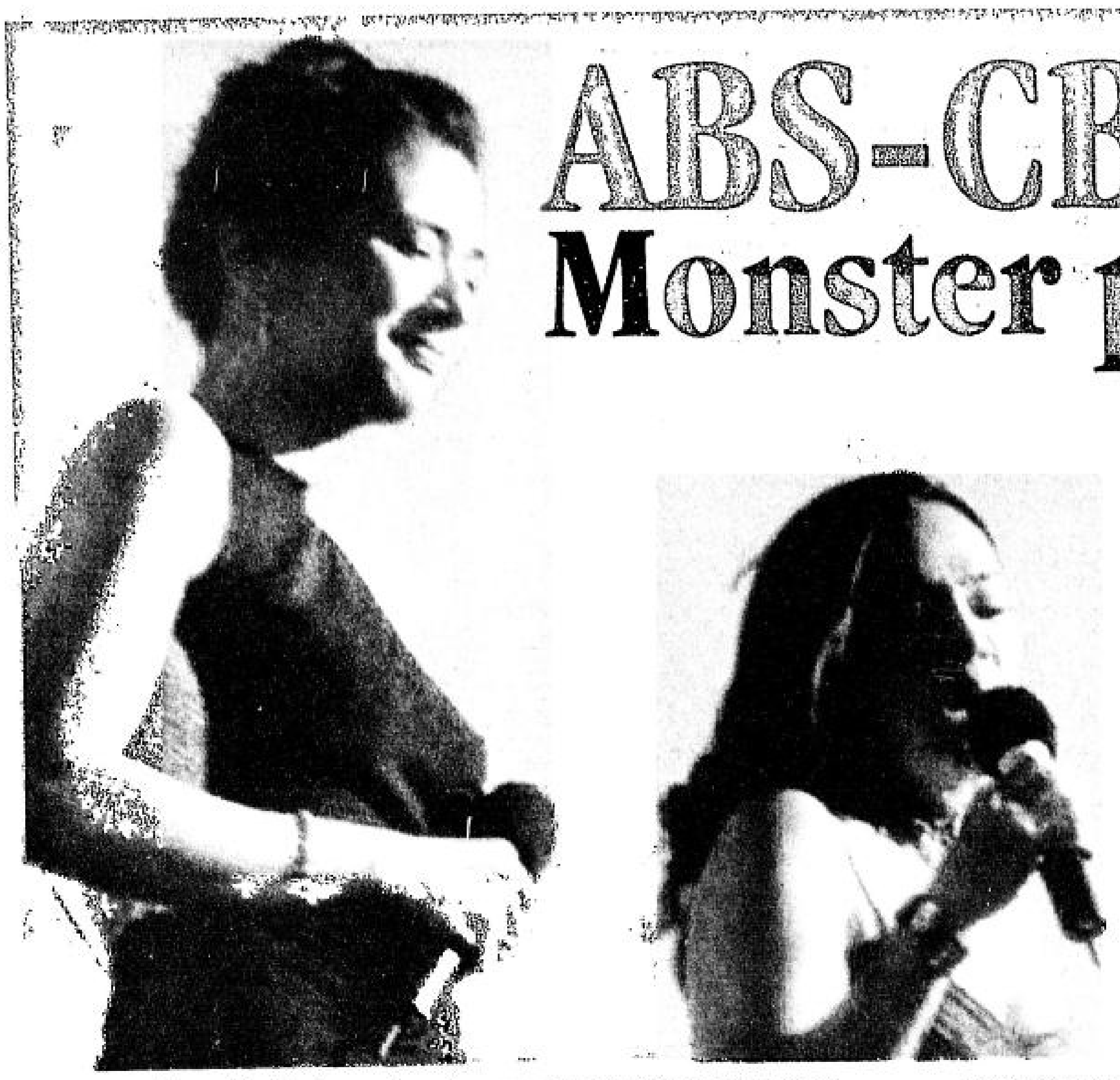
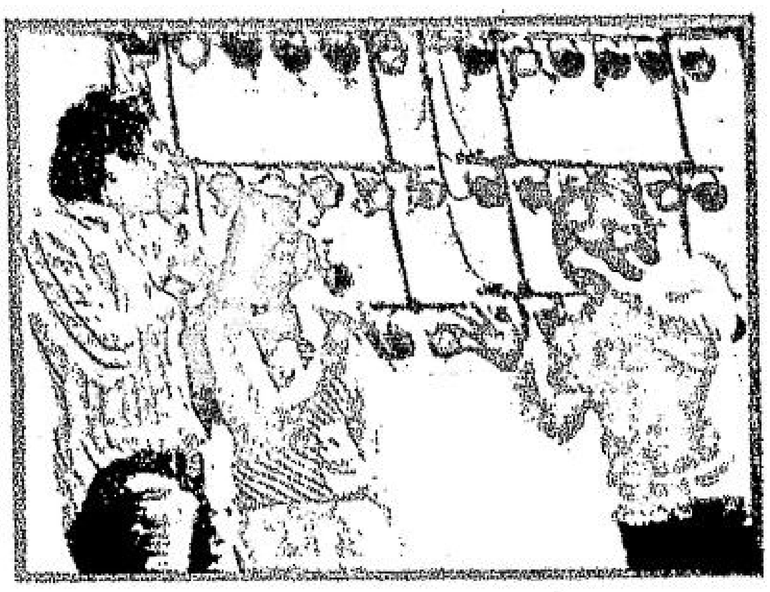


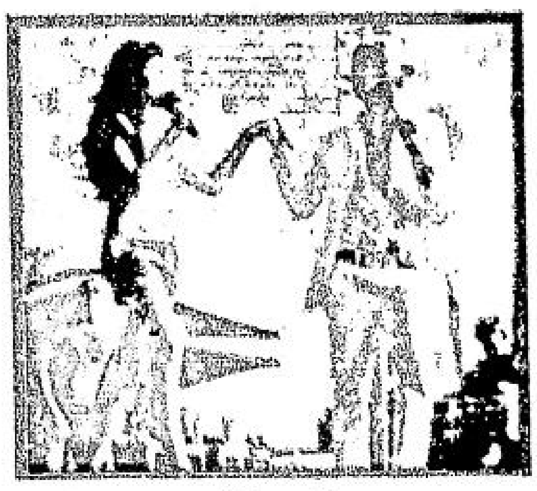
ZSA Zsa Padilla and Kuh Ledesma show the young 'uns what divas are made of.

PHOTOS BY VIDA G. VELARDE



AJ Dee, Bea Alonzo and Chocoleit for "The Buzz"

CHAMPS Sarah Geronimo and Erik Santos



TONI Gonzaga and Vhong Navarro

It was a thank-you treat for subscribers of The Filipino Channel, but it also turned out to be a show of force

BEST abs: Vina Morales

SAN FRANCISCO—Talk about pulling out all the stops.

The final leg of ABS-CBN's "Kapamilya Summer Caravan sa Amerika" last weekend, July 23, was an exercise in good old-fashioned extravagance.

Let alone a huge five-star cast, the double treat—"The Buzz" and "Asap Mania '05" staged live at the Monster Park in South San Francisco and telecast in Manila a few hours delayed—was attended by top-level network executives from both sides of the Pacific, led by brothers Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, chair and chief executive officer, and Rafael "Raffy" Lopez, managing director of ABS-CBN Global.

That it was a thank-you party for subscribers of The Filipino Channel, which airs ABS-CBN programs in North America (also in Asia Pacific, Australia, Europe and the Middle East), was the official announcement. What it turned out to be, was a show of force.

Downtown at the 7,000-capacity Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, rival station GMA 7 proceeded with its own scheduled show to court clients for Pinoy TV, with which it hopes to challenge TFC.

The Kapamilya spectacular at the open-air Monster, formerly Candlestick Park, drew a slightly smaller crowd than that which turned up the previous week for Round One in Pasadena's Rose Bowl Stadium, but it was still more sizeable at about 30,000 than the covered Civic auditorium could hold.

Certified magnets

Though "The Buzz" and "Asap" were certified crowd magnets, the network's creative team did not let marquee value alone make the day. The program was a sequence of one show stopper after another, featuring veteran performers Gary Valenciano, Zsa Zsa Padilla, Kuh Ledesma, Vina Morales, and guests Nora Aunor, Rachel Alejandro and David Pomeranz; bright newcomers from Star Magic (the Kapamilya talent center)—Joross Gamboa, Roxanne Guinoo, Nikki Gil, Toni Gonzaga, Vhong Navarro, Iya Villania; singing champions Sarah Geronimo, Sheryn Regis, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, Christian Bautista and Erik Santos; Ryan Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos.

"The Buzz" crew came in full force: Boy Abunda, Kris Aquino (with James Yap), AJ Dee and Chocoleit.

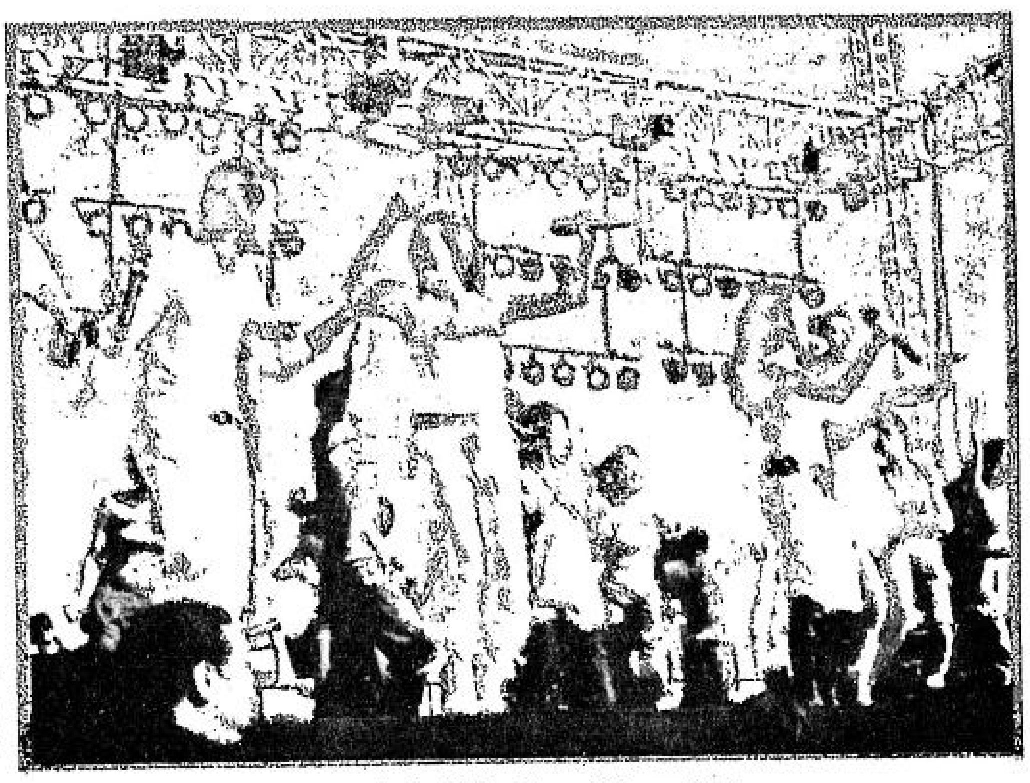
Needless to say, the carefully assembled cast covered all age groups and pop tastes.

That a good time was had by all would be an understatement (the merciless summer sun was thoroughly ignored by screaming spectators for the most part). It was an event that would be difficult to erase from memory.

When at last the sun went down, a brilliant moon rose in a hurry to catch up with the singing-dancing stars onstage.

From the bay, an icy wind blew. And still the show went on.

Emmie G. Velarde



WINNERS in white: Erik Santos, Rachelle Ann Go and Sheryn Regis

UP FRONT: From right, brothers Raffy and Gabby Lopez with Charo Santos-Concio, EVP for entertainment, and Cory Vidanes, SVP for TV productions. They also led a delegation the night before to the city hall, when July 22 was declared "ABS-CBN International TFC Day in San Francisco" by Mayor Gavin Newsom.

BEAUTY in the crowd: Gretchen Barretto

GARY V at 41 still Mr. Pure Energy

BOY Abunda squeezes the buzz out of new Californian Kim de los Santos

ATE Guy looking like her old confident self

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WONKA
Augustus
is what he eats
THE FACTORY OPENS AUG. 3
PLAN B

Mig's tribute to 'Lola'

From page A2-1

to this beach and I realized quickly when I looked around. I said, my God, they're all naked. I remember being absolutely freaked out by it."

Josh wanted it to be clear, yessiree: "No, I'm not actually someone who frequents nude beaches. But they're mostly nude in Australia—which is the way it should be, honestly."

But he seemed conflicted about it. "I've thought about it a lot. I've mourned my Australia experience," he remarked. Clenching his fists and looking up, Josh smiled and asked, "Monogamy—why?!"

Then in the same breath he declared, "I'm very proud that I made it though, living on the beach with naked women in my front yard without making a mistake, to be honest with you. Even in hindsight. I was very much in love and I was happy to struggle with monogamy. I don't look back on it with regret. But I guess that, had I been single, it would have been a lot more fun!"

Jessica Biel also enjoyed living temporarily on Bondi Beach but she enjoyed Thailand as well: "We were in Chiang Mai the whole time. It was beautiful. I loved the outdoor market. I bought great stuff at such wonderful prices. It was fun to haggle—to say, lower, lower! We ate amazing food. And the best mangoes."

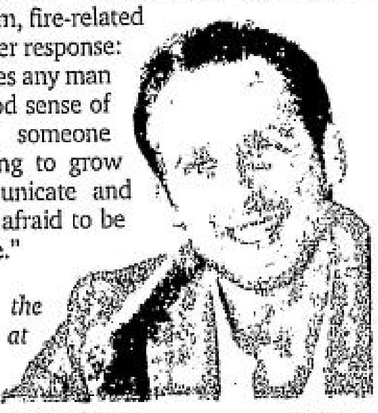
This L'Oreal image model did some dangerous stunts on this film. She said, "I wish I could remember all of the special little tricks that my martial arts-instructor taught me. I used to know how to break your arm." Hearing that, we instinctively hid our skinny arms from her view.

Since she is reportedly dating Chris Evans, Human Torch in "Fantastic Four," Jessica was asked an, um, fire-related question. Her response: "What makes any man hot is a good sense of humor, someone who's willing to grow and communicate and who is not afraid to be affectionate."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales@yahoo.com.)

SOFIA Vergara

ARMANDO GALLO



JOSH Lucas

LISA YAN LU

Owen Wilson and Vince Vaughn stars in the "Wedding Crashers"

"WEDDING CRASHERS"

Crashing to the #1 Spot in the U.S. this Weekend

New Line is hoping that strong word-of-mouth and a continued lack of exciting competition will allow its comedy Wedding Crashers to hold on strong and take over the number #1 spot in the US this weekend. It was the #2 movie for two consecutive weeks and the box office receipt is climbing.

The Owen Wilson,Vince Vaughn, and Rachel McAdams pic slipped a slender 24% last weekend showing excellent signs of long term durability", says Freddy Aguerro, president of marketing at New Line Cinema. "People see it, they like it, and they recommend it to others. It's an old fashinoned hit, pure and simple". In fact, a mild 30% decline would give Wedding Crashers about $18M and take #1 spot. The 17-day tally was a spectacular $113M.

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Telephone: 633.2227 / 633785 loc. 171

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3 (DTS)	WAR OF THE WORLDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	WEDDING CRASHERS
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	FANTASTIC FOUR
6 GOLD (SDDS)	STEALTH
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE ISLAND
8	D' ANOTHERS
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2	MONSTER IN LAW
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4 (DTS)	THE ISLAND

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2	D' ANOTHERS

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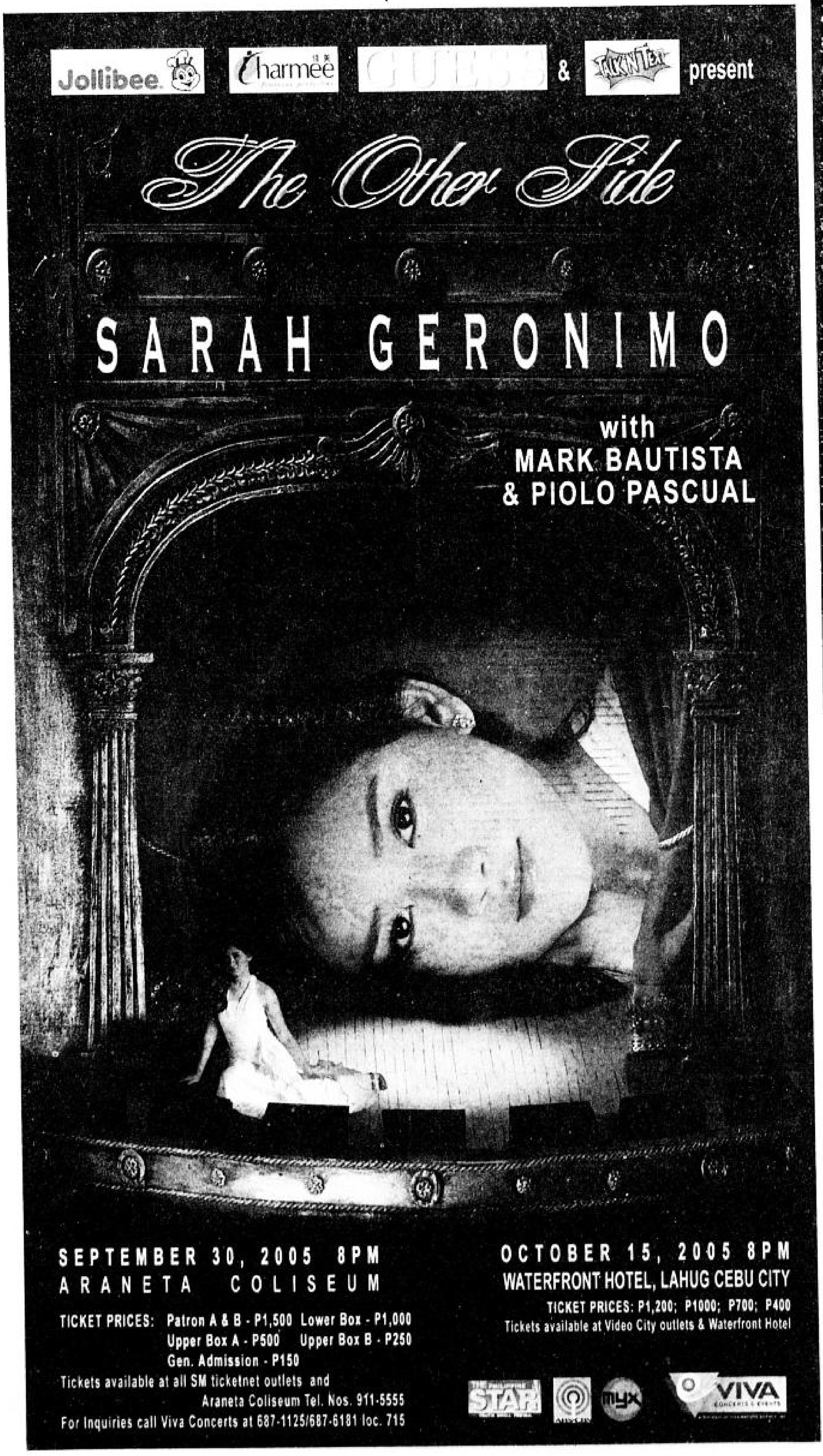

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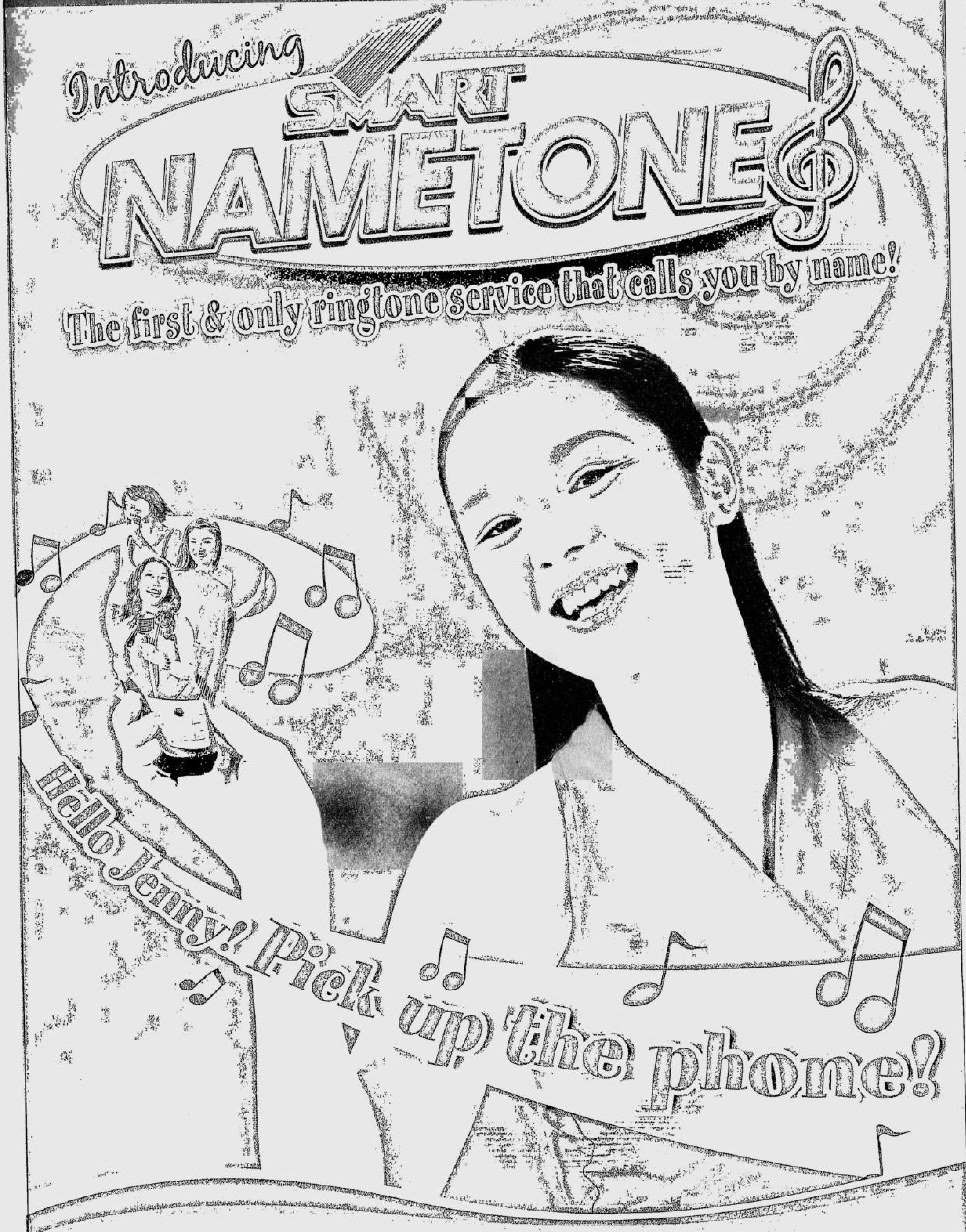
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Sunday BIZ

'Do extraordinary work for an ordinary job'

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

BALBIDO today

RICARDO A. Balbido Jr. went to elementary and high school for free in his hometown of Digos, Davao del Sur because he was a son of a World War II veteran.

Thus, when the opportunity came years later for him to head a bank owned by World War II veterans, he pounced on it.

Becoming president of Philippine Veterans Bank was, the 55-year-old says, his way of giving back to the many Filipinos who bravely stood up to fight and defend their country.

The road to the presidency of PVB was a relatively short one for the eldest son of government employees whose first trip to Manila was to review for the board exams for Certified Public Accountants in 1971.

With funds for board and lodging running low, Balbido decided to look for a job, armed with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the famed Silliman University in Dumaguete, Negros Oriental.

FIRST JOB

He quickly landed one in FNCB Finance, the forerunner of Citibank NA in the Philippines, as a stock clerk tasked to manage the office supplies and handle purchasing and distribution of equipment and materials to FNCB's 15 branches.

The job was not exactly what Balbido had in mind when he was told in the interview that there was an opening for a stock clerk.

"When they mentioned to me that the position of stock clerk was open, I was very excited, because I thought it involved the stock market," Balbido tells SundayBiz.

While he was a little disappointed to know the real nature of his position, and that he would not be working anywhere near the stock market, Balbido still took on the job.

As he says, he could not afford to be choosy at that time because he had bills to pay. And P475 a month in 1971 was a good enough salary to start with, while waiting for his CPA board results.

He not only took on the job, he devoted all his energy to becoming the best stock clerk in the building.

RICARDO Balbido with his wife, Josephine, in a trip to Oakland City

BALBIDO speaking at Silliman University in 1994. He was named Outstanding Sillimanian that year for banking and finance

That includes cutting his hair short, trading his bellbottom pants for formal slacks to look the part of the office worker. It was goodbye to his happy-go-lucky days.

The sacrifices were worth it as Balbido's painstaking efforts to do a great job did not go unnoticed.

It wasn't long before FNCB officials realized that they had an employee on their hands that could do much more than just manage office supplies, especially after passing the CPA board.

By the time Balbido left FNCB Finance five years later, he was promoted to assistant manager of the Marikina branch.

Balbido moved to the Ayala group's Makati Leasing and Finance Corp. where he learned all about equipment leasing. It was also during his stint in Makati Leasing when he first went out of the country.

"I went to San Francisco. It was very exciting, not only because it was my first time to go abroad, but also because I learned so much about the business," Balbido says.

From equipment leasing, Balbido found himself in commercial banking when the Ayala group decided in 1978 to merge all the financial services companies under the Bank of the Philippine Islands.

Fast rise

He stayed in BPI for 21 years, and he would swing by his home

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Artist finds beauty in other people's junk

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

CATBALOGAN, Samar—A Honda electric guitar, a wall clock with hands moving in reverse and a framed saxophone that looks real are just a few of the many eclectic creations of an eccentric person who loves to create beautiful things out of discarded materials.

AN IRON dog made out of junked materials.

Ezekiel "Bebot" Gaborni, 51, a tailor, visual artist and a bachelor, also does portrait painting. He has been sketching and painting long before he ventured into junk art.

In his house, two self-portraits hang on a wall—a charcoal painting and a three-dimensional made of coconut shell and husk and discarded materials.

But Gaborni finds junk art more challenging and satisfying. For almost two decades now, he has been collecting discarded metal, glass, plastic and other materials including worn furniture and other wooden objects, colorful butterfly wings and even animal bones and converting these to artistic use.

Some of his works have been displayed publicly in an art exhibition in town and in a school activity.

Gaborni has made more than a dozen junk art objects as well as several gadgets that are operational like a busted bulb that now serves as a kerosene lamp; a tool made out of syringe needle and a small motor that could be used in tattooing; an operational point-and-shoot camera that has an improvised flash; and an electric guitar made out of motorcycle parts and other surplus materials.

A "motorcycle-guitar"

"I've been wondering then why there was no Honda guitar when there is a Yamaha electric guitar," Gaborni says, referring to two competing popular motorcycle brands.

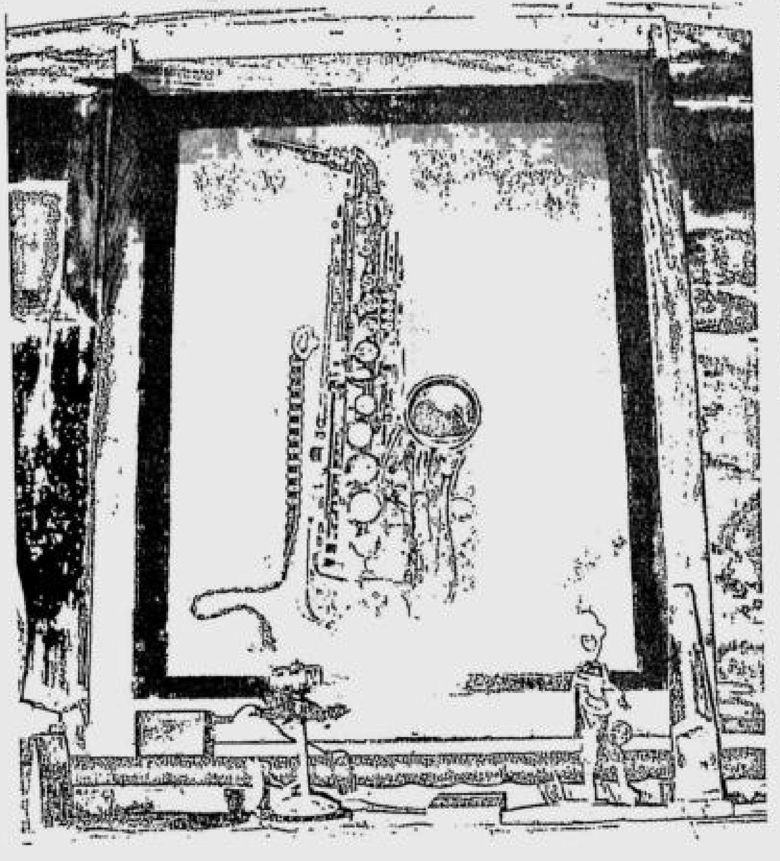
He recalls that the idea of making a Honda electric guitar cropped up when he got hold of the side cover of the battery compartment of his cousin's unserviceable Honda motorcycle.

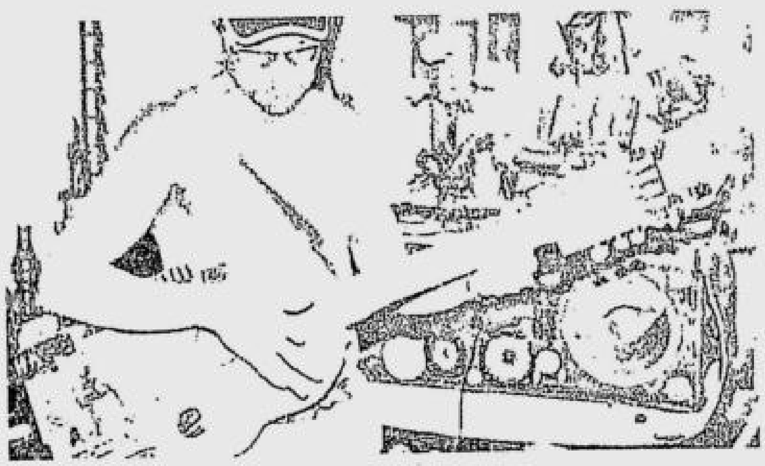
Using that material as the soundboard and an old hardwood material as the neck, he started to make a guitar.

Then he placed an electromagnetic pick-up on the guitar and connected this to an amplifier. Finally, he had his own Honda electric guitar!

At the Gaborni residence in the Ubanon district of this town, the hands of time are literally turning back—at least in one particular battery-operated wall clock whose short and long hands are moving counterclockwise or from left to right just like the numbers on the face of the clock.

Asked how he made the clock move that way, Gaborni explained that he changed the polarity of the electromagnet in the clock's mechanism.


THE ELECTRIC Saxophone, one of the artworks of Ezekiel "Bebot" Gaborni


GABORNI plays his Honda electric guitar.

VICENTE S. LABRO, PDI VISAYAS BUREAU

But he quickly added that "it is only He who has the power to turn back the hands of time," pointing to an image of the face of Christ on the center of the clock's face.

This, he says, was the message he wanted to convey in that artwork.

Resurrecting junks

Unlike other junk art enthusiasts, Gaborni did not have to scour dumpsites, beaches and junkshops to look for materials.

What he had used and are using are discarded materials given to him by friends, relatives and even some strangers who know that he is an artist who gives new life to salvaged scrap materials.

He was lured to the inexpensive world of junk art because he lacked the money to buy costly art materials.

His knowledge in motorcycle repair also helped him acquire junk art materials. At least four unserviceable motorcycles owned by his cousins were given to him and ended up as parts of his art works. Neighbors also gave him bits and pieces of old furniture, window frames and wooden flooring as well as broken radios, household appliances and car spare parts.

Gaborni has no formal schooling in fine art. He is a high school graduate who completed a master's course in motorcycle repair from a United States-based correspondence school.

He finished his secondary education at Samar High School in 1972 but did not pursue a college course "to give way" to an elder sister and a younger brother. "My mother couldn't afford to send us all to school," he explains.

But he had shown his talent in art, particularly sketching and painting, when he was young.

"My mother told me that when I was in grade two I could already draw very well," he says. Two years after he stopped schooling, Gaborni says he started to draw and paint again.

Gradually he honed his talent in portrait painting and then started to accept clients, charging them P1,000 for each of his work.

Time management

Now, Gaborni divides his time between attending to his ailing aged mother at their house in Ubanon and tending to his tailor shop in Mercedes district, also in this town, which only accepts repairs or alterations.

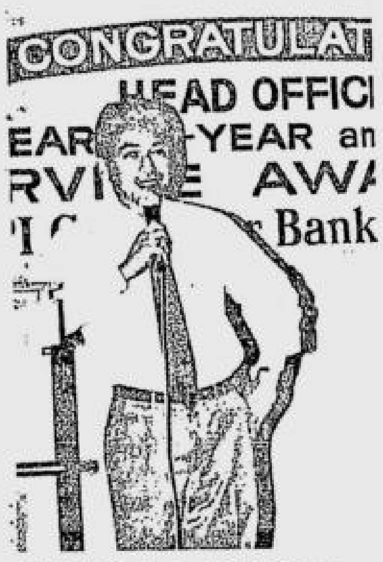
He spends time working on his art projects whenever his mother does not need his attention or there are no customers in the shop.

At present, he already has a collection of about 15 junk art objects that include a dog made out of a motorcycle carburetor and engine, a ferocious-looking fish with a bulging eye, a venomous snake that is ready to attack and an electric saxophone.

And he hopes to sell all of these beautiful pieces to people who like this kind of art works.

In making the electric saxophone, Gaborni says he painstakingly put together spare parts of a radio, a goggle, several coins, an exposed 135 camera film, a belt of a sewing machine, weather beaten pieces of wood and other salvaged scrap materials.

Indeed, one person's junk is another person's stuff for an artwork.



BALBIDO during his BPI days

RICARDO and Josephine Balbido with their three "angels"

Do extraordinary work ...

From page B1

town every chance he got.

"It was in BPI where I really learned the ropes of commercial and retail banking. It was a very challenging stint," Balbido says.

Balbido moved up the BPI hierarchy rather quickly, from assistant vice president to senior vice president, often bypassing more senior officers. He did so by doing his ordinary work, extraordinarily well.

"I moved up because I really took ownership of my work. I have always believed that you must always give your best to what you do, and be proud to say "that that's my work," he says.

"I have always been guided by the saying that you may have all the knowledge and the skills. But in the end, what separates the men from the boys, is the virtue of giving the best in whatever you do," he adds.

He says he developed his work ethic at the feet of his parents who devoted themselves to their jobs with no regard for a promotion, or a salary increase.

"They were government employees at a time when government employees were all about giving quality service to their constituents without thinking of a payback," he says.

Balbido's father was a field supervisor and his mother was a public school teacher.

"I guess coming from the province also worked for me because there is humility. You are not used to publicity, so you just work silently. In the end, it is the work that will be noticed," he says.

Notice, his supervisors did.

Learning consumer banking

Balbido, for instance, was tasked to be part of the acquisition team for Family Bank, which eventually became BPI Family Bank. He stayed there for 10 years, learning all he could about consumer banking.

"I was the last of the original team to be seconded to Family Bank to be recalled to the mother bank. I would say I earned my consumer banking stripes there," Balbido says.

It was also in BPI where Balbido honed his management skills.

"I treat my people as partners, and not as my subordinates," he says, "and the only way to get their support is to earn their respect, not their fear."

He shows the same respect, he says, to his supervisors from whom he learned so much throughout his career.

"I try to pick up as much of their knowledge as I can. They really do help. I am happy that I got a lot of that from my seniors," he says.

Pay back

Balbido's last post was senior vice president of BPI, before he took on the challenge in 1995 to put up a new bank for scratch for the Dao Heng group, which was one of the foreign groups that came to the Philippines when the banking sector was liberalized.

"It was a once in a lifetime opportunity to organize a bank from the ground up. We started from zero, but we got the bank going. It was a very rewarding experience," he says.

Balbido joined as executive vice president, and was eventually named president of the bank in 1998.

He warmed his seat for just two years, however, as the opportunity to head the Philippine Veterans Bank came up in 2000. By January 2001, he was president and CEO of PVB.

"I took it because my father was a veteran," he says. "He was part of the USAFFE forces based in Mindanao and I got my education because of the scholarship program for dependents of World War II veterans."

"It is my way of paying back," he adds.

Paying back for Balbido means growing the bank to a level where it can easily sustain the benefits it has committed to provide the WWII veterans who own the bank.

PVB's charter is specific. At least 20 percent of its income must be set aside for the growing medical needs of WWII veterans.

He says he keeps close tabs on the latest technological advancements by consulting his younger staff, and his daughters, whom he describes as his angels.

Balbido and his wife, Josephine, have three daughters. The eldest is in the Singapore office of Standard Chartered Bank, the second is with the Sycip Salazar law office, while the youngest is still in college.

They are his cheerleaders and are proud that their father is doing what he could for the bank.

"I think PVB is doing well. Management has professionalized the bank and PVB has satisfied all the compliance ratios of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas," he says.

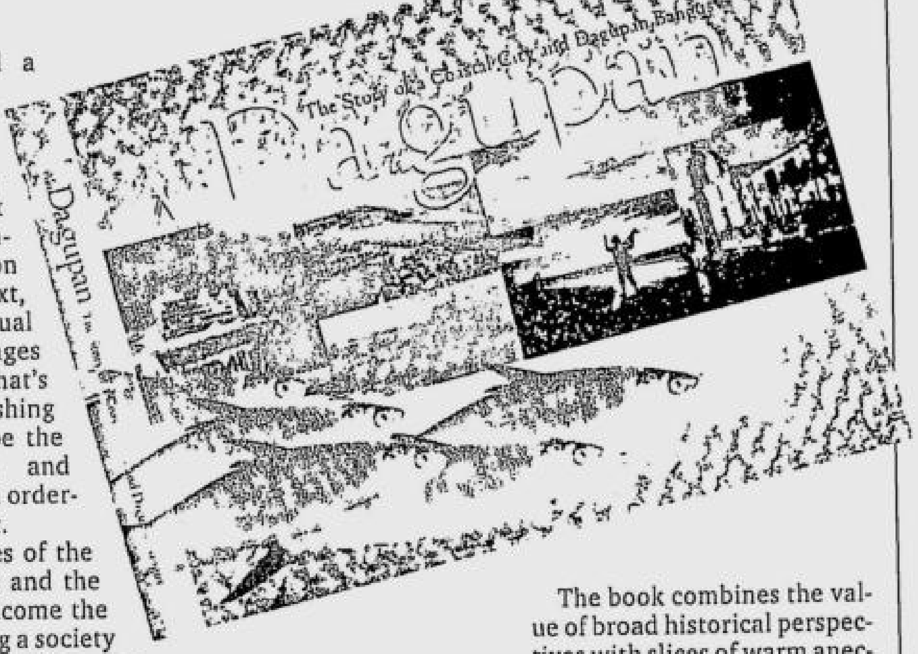
PVB is bent on growing its assets even more with the acquisition of Teachers Bank and the takeover of the management of the Bankwise group.

"We are doing these because we can not afford to lose money. We have our veterans to take care of. My vision is to make the bank one of the most profitable in the field," he says.

With the way the bank is growing, the veterans will be very happy, indeed.

One use of the past: illuminate the future

By Dante M. Velasco
Contributor



YOU and I need a break. We need to pause from "reading," so we can begin simply "looking." We must declare a much-needed liberation from too much text, and have a visual feast on more images of a bygone era. That's certainly a refreshing change. We escape the chaotic present, and journey back to an orderly and gentler past.

We rid ourselves of the noise in Congress and the air lanes, and welcome the rare quiet of seeing a society in harmony, watching the march of events whose denouement we know. We witness revolutions that end up, not in dreaded annihilation, but in the triumph of the human spirit.

When you get hold of this coffee table book, titled "Nan-Daragupan," you will be seized with a sense of gratitude that, somehow, political and religious protagonists achieve harmony on its pages.

EXECUTIVE READ

Sub-titled "The Story of a Coastal City and Dagupan Bangus," the book begins with a "blessing" from Archbishop Oscar V. Cruz (a confirmed critic of the President) and a "Foreword" from Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. (a certified loyalist of the same embattled President). Both high profile leaders agree on a "harvest of blessings" for city residents.

Almost every spread of two pages of the 256-page book, the looker (not reader) has the rare experience of having both past and present in one uninterrupted time continuum. The picture of an old church building made of red bricks (toppled by an earthquake) is juxtaposed with the existing magnificent cathedral that took its place. You could hear the bells peal at sundown for the traditional Angelus.

You turn to another page, and are greeted by a picture of a familiar photo and the bigger photo of a lovely Filipina, including a replica of a musical piece titled "Leonor." The article sheds light on an ill-starred courtship, which begins with this paragraph: "Dagupan was the setting of the heart-rending love story of Jose Rizal and his cousin, Leonor Rivera." It also turns out that the dashing Gregorio del Pilar was also smitten by a beauteous Dagupeña, with moving tales of an indestructible love written in the elegant pages of this book.

The scholarship of this book sets it apart from many coffee table books that dazzle you with pictures, but keep you wondering about their fidelity to historical facts. Fittingly, the book wraps up everything in a tastefully drawn timeline, which places historical milestones in the coastal city of Dagupan from 1000 BC to 2004 within the progressive larger perspectives of Pangasinan (the province), the Philippines and the World.

The historical entry for Dagupan begins within the period 1571-1580, when Martin de Goiti had an expedition in Pangasinan and Limahong was marshalling his troops. The sweep of history happens before your eyes in arresting graphics and photos of artifacts.

The book combines the value of broad historical perspectives with slices of warm anecdotes—that prove a truism that "history is biography." For example, a historical account of the city's rambunctious press jealous of their freedom is illuminated by the crusade of Ermin Garcia of Sunday Punch, felled by an assassin's bullet. It is also warmed by the late editor's rare heart-tugging letter to his daughter Karina, who died in her youth.

There are coffee table books and there will be more of them. This one book used to full advantage the collective effort of many talents in the City—which explains its admirable scholarship, its successful attempt to be interesting, and its unerring eye for what is relevant and illuminating.

This book affirms a quote from writer Margaret Fairless Barber who said: "To look backward for a while is to refresh the eye, to restore it, and to render it more fit for its prime function of looking forward."

Simply put, if we have such a past as a local or national community, when heroism was real, when love was pure, and when hope was indestructible, can we then look forward to a similar future? We have uses for the past, one of which is to serve as a lamp to our feet as we stride confidently into tomorrow. Take heed, leaders! *(dantemvelasco@yahoo.com)*

Poverty-free zone in Southern Leyte

From page B10

manager of the Laboon Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative Inc.

These two villages are among the 21 depressed communities in the country that have been identified as pilot areas for the Department of Labor and Employment's Poverty-Free Zone (PFZ) program.

The residents were organized into cooperatives, guided in identifying viable livelihood projects, given skills training, and assistance in acquiring production equipment such as hand looms, in the case of the Hantag weavers, and kneading machines, mechanical dryer, blunger, potters wheel, kiln and molders, in the case of the Laboon potters.

Various government agencies and private sector partners are helping the beneficiaries nurture their chosen enterprises—cassava and camote processing in the Cordillera Autonomous Region; soft broom and other tiger grass products in Burgos, La Union; seaweed processing for the fishermen in Tibungco, Davao City; goat dairy production for the farmers in Malanang, Opol Misamis Oriental; bamboo furniture and other products for the craftsmen in Guimaras, Iloilo and Nasugbu, Batangas; and integrated fruit and vegetable processing in Morong, Bataan.

In Maasin, the two PFZ projects were implemented using the "convergence approach," a one-day planning and pledging session with various social partners and stakeholders.

"This ensured a wholistic and focused delivery of programs and services to Barangays Hantag and Laboon, thus, creating a significant impact on the lives to the beneficiaries and on the community," says Fe Norma D. Valuis, supervising labor and employment officer and PFZ Program Manager of DOLE-Region 8.

The pledges were translated into a Memorandum of Agreement and signed by the heads of DOLE-Region 8 and the different stakeholders.

In the case of Hantag and Laboon, productivity programs were introduced by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board, one of DOLE's attached agencies, and DTI's Southern Leyte Provincial Office.

Abaca weavers of Hantag

To ensure a steady supply of raw materials and project sustainability, the Fida and the Maasin City Agriculture Office taught the abaca farmers how to cultivate the suitable variety (locally called *laylay*).

Over 200 hectares in Hantag and nearby communities like Malapoc Sur, Malapoc Norte, Bactul I and II and Matin-ao had been planted with laylay abaca as farmers learned to control diseases such as the bunchy top and abaca mosaic virus. The provincial government of Southern Leyte and the city government of Maasin are currently undertaking some measures to protect the abaca industry by controlling these diseases.

HAFAMCI was organized in 1991 by 22 members who contributed P100 each, selling among themselves their own produce like camote and *salabat* extracted from ginger. Today, the cooperative has over P300,000 in share capital from its members.

HAFAMCI's over 100 weavers can now produce a total of 2,800 meters of sinamay every month, which the cooperative buys at P36 per meter. The weavers' monthly aggregate output is valued at about P100,800, a substantial regular cash inflow into this rural community. Encouraged by the experience of the Hantag weavers, residents of the nearby barangay have also organized themselves in Malapok Sur Tinagak and Sinamay Workers Association.

It is a labor intensive activity and almost all of the family members are involved as the tasks—of connecting the abaca fiber into continuous spools (*tagak*) and weaving these into sinamay—can be done at home.

The 100 steel-framed handlooms were fabricated in Maasin and given to the weavers—50 in Hantag, 30 in Malapoc Sur and 20 in Laboon—as a grant.

"We monitor their output, otherwise the looms will be given to somebody else who could make productive use of it," Valuis says.

According to Genera Pia, chair of the Malapok Sur cooperative, which has 30 weavers and 16 tinagak makers, even the children are weaving so they would have some money for school and even buy a new dress.

Luis Grullo, HAFAMCI cooperative chair, is responsible for sourcing the abaca fiber (or eskujedo) and tinagak the weavers need. Grullo's wife does not weave because of poor eyesight but she makes tinagak which the cooperative buys at P280 a kilo.

Skilled weaver Anastasia Aquino, who weaves in between farm and household chores, produces at least 25 meters of sinamay out of 1.6 kilos of tinagak each week. With her additional income of P452 a week from weaving, Anastasia is able to send her children to school, six of whom are in high school and one in college.

Meanwhile, less experienced weavers produce at least 50 meters a month. It is something that they can do anytime, especially at midday when it is too hot to work in the farm, the weavers added.

HAFAMCI treasurer Erlinda Calban, whose husband died late last year, has been able to cope with the loneliness by keeping herself busy. With the help of her only child, she weaves, operates a sari-sari store and raises hogs to augment the income derived from copra, the price of which is constantly fluctuating.

Meanwhile, Virgie, who is now one of HAFAMCI's board of directors, is glad her daughter, who graduated from St. Joseph College in Maasin has found a job in Manila.

Her husband is sick and can no longer work in the farm, she said. The two looms at home are used alternately by her two daughters and her husband, who are among the fastest weavers in Hantag. Virgie is often tapped by the Department of Trade and Industry to train weavers in the region. With the extra income she derives from weaving, she had been able to buy appliances on installment, Virgie said.

Potters of Laboon

When the farmers of Laboon decided to go into the pottery venture, various agencies pledged to assist the group: the barangay agreed to set aside a parcel of land to be the site for the production center, which was built through contributions from the Maasin City government, DOLE and equity from the cooperative.

DTI conducted a 10-day skills training on decorative ceramic and artware production, including the basic hands-on training on how to build and operate a kiln, says Susana Capa, chair of the Laboon Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc.

Today, the 25 workers involved in the project are producing a wide range of pottery items—from simple clay dishes that poultry raisers use as feed containers to large decorative jars.

ABACA-WEAVING can be done at midday when it is too hot to work in the farm.

They have worked out a detailed costing for each stage of the production process—clay is bought at P1 per sack, laborers gathering the clay are paid P3 per sack for digging and P2 per sack for hauling. The potters are paid per piece, the rate of which depends on the intricacy of the item—P1 for the clay dish and P15 for a decorative jar.

Milagros Capistrano, the cooperative's business manager, estimated that their two potters, who alternately work on potter's wheeled jars and other ceramic items, earn between P1,000 to P2,000 a month. The women handle the slip casting; where pieces of earthenware are produced using molds made of plaster of Paris.

The clay pots, dishes and jars are then placed in the kiln for firing for about eight hours. For fuel, they use dried coconut fronds for pre-heating, and coconut shell and firewood for the succeeding three-hour rapid firing. These are left to cool off for several hours before the items are taken out of the kiln.

The decorative jars are sanded for which the laborers are paid P3 a piece, and another P2 for varnishing. A worker could earn P10 a piece for sanding large decorative jars and varnishing them with antique finish.

At this point, the products are ready to be brought to nearby trading towns like Sogod, Baybay and Hilongos where the decorative jars could be sold at P120 a piece.

Recently, DOLE donated to the cooperative a vehicle to enable them to transport their products to the trading centers. The cooperative sets aside 20 percent of their gross sales to compensate the 4-woman team in charge of the daily production and business operations.

Depending on the orders they get, the cooperative earns between P6,000 and P9,000 a month, said sales clerk Liza Ortega.

For the past several years, the two cooperatives occupied a small space in their respective barangay halls. Recently, HAFAMCI acquired a lot and built a new office, funded partly by donations from Governor Rosette Lerias, Mayor Damian Mercado and members' contributions. Beside its office is a rice mill, a support project undertaken through a P100,000 funding assistance from DOLE's PRESEED program.

Also, HAFAMCI has transferred to a new location where they now hold office and operate a commodity store.

Encouraged by the two successful projects in Maasin, DOLE-Region 8 is now identifying other livelihood projects in Samar where the poverty incidence is also high, said Valuis of DOLE-Region 8.

Machinery, electronics show surpasses expectations

THE CHINA Machinery and Electronic Products Exhibition recently held in Manila as part of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Philippines was a success. The exhibit generated positive response from the local Chinese community and provided local businessmen the opportunity to have joint venture agreements and tie-ups with suppliers and manufacturers from China.

The Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China who sponsored the event this year, together with the China Chamber of Commerce for I/E of Machinery & Electronic Products who spearheaded the exhibition, were all very proud of the outcome. Some of the highlights of the event were:

1) Total registered business-related visitors who came to the 4-day event reached 10,478 showing local businessmen are interested in China machinery and electronic products.

2) 678 specific machinery and product inquiries from local companies were received by the show's event manager, Global-Link Business Communications Phils. Inc. looking for potential China partners. Business matchmakings were made but due to the numerous inquiries, negotiations and correspondences between the local companies and China-based companies could not all be accommodated during the 4-day show so this is still ongoing.

3) The show was endorsed and supported by 20 local associations and 9 government offices/agencies gracing the opening of the event.

4) Over 90 percent of the Chinese manufacturers were able to find local business distributors, agents and partners during the show.

5) The Chinese exhibitors were provided with business information on how to invest in the Philippines (through the Board of Investments), Philippine customs and policies on importation, how the Philippine banking system works and possible cooperation and strengthening of business ties with the China chamber's local affiliate member, the Federation of Electrical and Electronic Suppliers and Manufacturers of the Phils. (Pesa) who co-organized the event.

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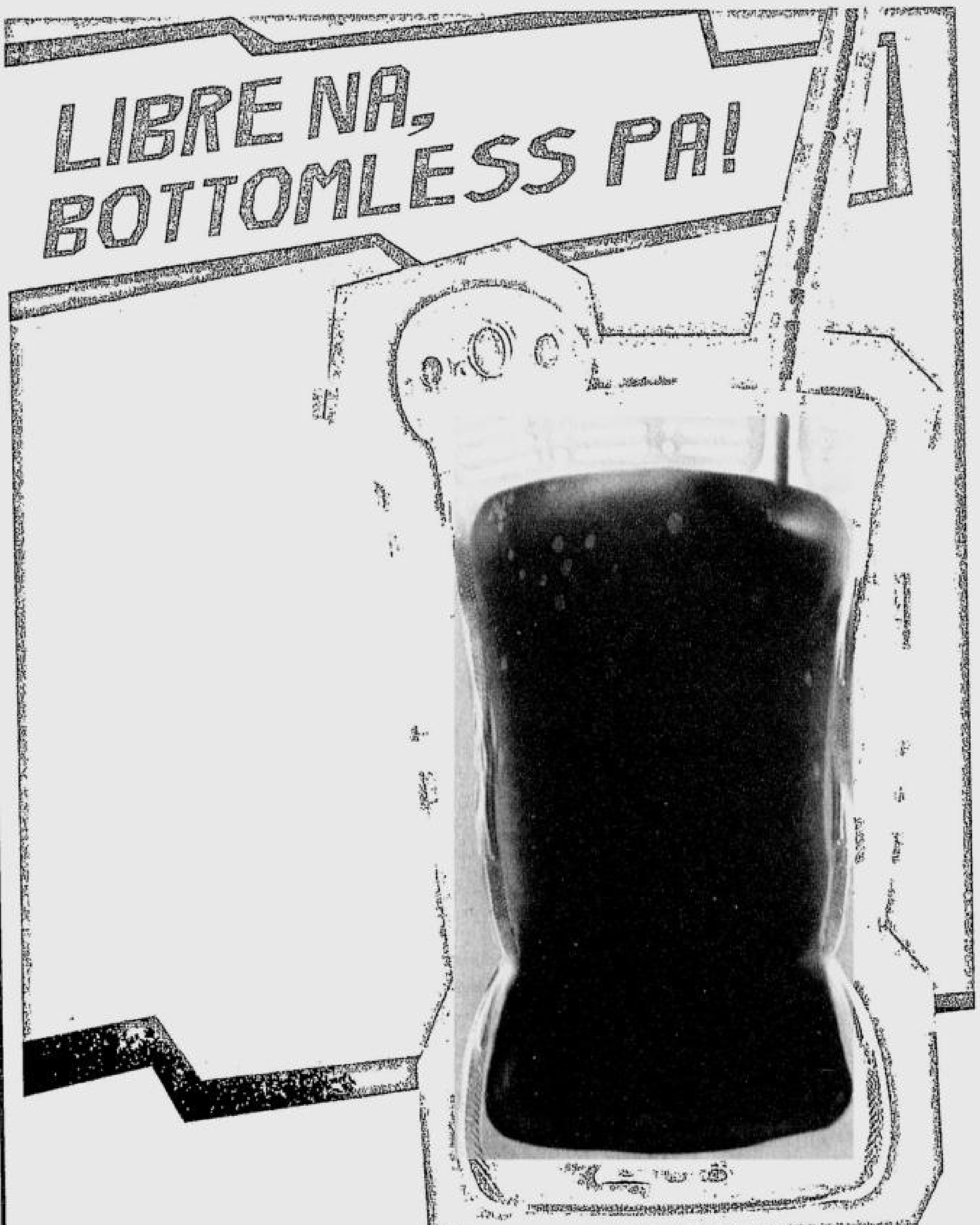

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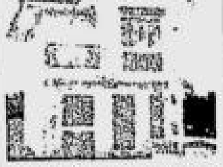

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1Hour Car Loan 9153460
2%w/o taking car 6560140

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

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2% w/oTaking Car 8870490/95

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

USED SHARP/SAMSUNG REF 14@F ownr leaving 9318691

FURNITURE/ FIXTURES

8SEATER DINING / CHINA / BUFFET / BAR CABS 9318691

HEALTH & BEAUTY

RUSH SALE SALON EQUIPMENTS& ACC. LOT 5358006 8160151

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

YAMAHA GRAND & UPRIGHT
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Almost New:TERMS-7213124

PETS

Aszoo Dog Training 455-6212

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- A graduate of a Business, Industrial Management, Management Engineering or at least a 4 years IT or Engineering course
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- Has adequate understanding of the imaging business or Business Process Outsourcing (BPO)
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- A graduate of a Business, Industrial Management, Management Engineering or Marketing course
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- Has adequate understanding of the consumer imaging business, products and services and the customers' business
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- Fluent in both oral and written communications
- Pleasant, can immediately establish rapport with a broad base of people
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Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records and 2x2 Kodak picture to:

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late LEON A. AGSUNOD has been extrajudicially settled with Simultaneous Sale as per Doc. No.4833, Book No. XI, Page No. 4, Series of 2005 of Notary Piblic Atty. Nicanor B. Narag of Batanes
(PDI-July24,31&Aug.7, 2005)

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOSS of Ayala Corp. Stck Cert. #4415 for 18,439 shares issued to ANTONIO MA. GUERRERO & /or CONSUELO S. GUERRERO.If No Contest Received New Certificate will be Be Issued.(PDI - July 24 ,31 & Aug. 7, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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- 2 Reservation Officer
- 1 Accounting Clerk
- 1 Computer Science

Tri-C's Travel 3rd Flr. New Farmer's Plaza, Cubao, Q.C.
995-7468 / 69 / 71

Cook 7, Yaya 4, Nurse Req. H'girl 3, 5 M'wife 8510250

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-Computer literate
-Willing to learn & be trained
-Justifiably agrressive
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967 Quezon Ave.,Quezon City
Call 371-9181 / 371-9180
or Txt 0920-7922497

URGENT! Office Staff M/F Call 8482164/65 - Mr. Beato

PCCI
343rd & 344th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVER BANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
AUGUST 6 & 7, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. RG Mcmurray
(Can)
Mr. D. Krisnamurthy
(India)
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CORPORATE SPONSORS:
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SPONSORS
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SALES PERSONNEL
21-35 yrs. old, college graduate
aggressive & hardworking
fresh graduates welcome
interview on Wed & Friday
10am at:
RnR Enterprises
Unit 1112 11th Flr. City & Land Mega Plaza Ortigas Ctr. Pasig (back of Robinsons Galleria) bring resume NBI & 2x2 picture

WANTED MESSENGERS ACCTG CLERKS COMP. TECHNICIAN MAIL RESUME TO TITANIUM AT 340 DR FERNANDEZ ST. MANDALUYONG CITY

PERSONAL

NOVENA PRAYER

O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, mani fested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen

---

**URGENTLY NEEDED
ACCOUNTING CLERKS**

- Accounting graduate
- Female not more than 30 years old
- Preferably single and computer literate
- With or without experience

Applicant must bring transcript of records

SOLIMAN SECURITY SERVICES, INC.
Room 506 Ermita Center Bldg. 1350 Roxas Blvd.
Ermita, Manila
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26 JULY 2005 TO JULY 25, 2007.

(PDI - July 31 2005)

**Billboard Ad Space for rent
Along EDSA Estrella
2 faces, 30x50 and 60x40**

For inquiries,
please call 886-4421 or 8864407
Anthony 0910-3243592

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

With salary of P182,000 – P250,000 per annum

- Preferably a graduate of UP, Ateneo or La Salle
- Must have at least one year experience in the field of sales and marketing
- Basic computer knowledge
- Good oral and written communication skills
- Must have flexible working hours

HR OFFICER

With salary of P130,000 – P250,000 per annum

- Must have at least one year experience in the field of HR preferably in a call center
- Must have depth experience in management coaching, organization development and organization effectiveness areas
- Must possess strong leadership skills
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)

CALL CENTER AGENT

With salary of P156,000 – P195,000 per annum

- Must have excellent English conversational skills
- Must have completed at least 2nd year college
- 18 to 27 years old, with outgoing personality
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Basic computer knowledge
- Internet savvy

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

With salary of P100,000 – P150,000 per annum

- Must be knowledgeable in Networking
- Willing to be trained
- Willing to work shifts (night/day or weekend)
- Must be a quick learner possessing good interpersonal skills
- Fresh graduates are welcome

Lapanday center, 2263 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City
Taking the MRT, get off at Magallanes Station and go towards Mantrade
(5th bldg. from EDSA) or SEND your resumes with ID picture to: hr@nytelecon.com
or MAIL TO: P.O. Box 892 Dasmariñas Village, Makati

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MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (TB, HIV-AIDS and Vitamin A supplementation) and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of the local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends September 30, 2006. *There are two 2-year optional extension periods.*

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to function as Project Performance Measurement Specialist.

PROJECT PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT SPECIALIST

Overall Responsibilities:
The Project Performance Measurement Specialist ensures that Project activities and major interventions are consistent with Project performance targets and contractual obligations. It is her/his responsibility to make sure that results monitoring and evaluation become an integral element of every technical assistance, intervention, or program undertaken by the project. The Specialist provides overall leadership and coordination in establishing realistic performance measures, incorporating these into plans, and making sure that these are adequately tracked, and regularly reported on.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. Coordinate the implementation of the LEAD Project Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (PMEP), the Project's main guide to the systematic and timely data collection, monitoring, analysis and reporting of Project performance, LGU performance, and the measurement of Project impact.
2. Coordinate with the different implementing units in establishing regular benchmarks/ targets of LGU, policy and project performance, in formulating Workplans, and in reporting on the status of benchmarks and Project accomplishments.
3. In coordination with the LGU Performance Specialist, monitor and evaluate LGU performance in achieving governance and service capacity targets, analyse trends, and disseminate quarterly summary of the status of LGU performance within the Project.
4. Work closely with the database administrator to ensure consistently high quality of data in the database.
5. Oversee the preparation of all technical and financial reports related to overall project performance monitoring activities.
6. Manage the conduct of regular project performance reviews.
7. Coordinate the preparation of reports, including those in response to ad hoc requests
8. Ensure ongoing communication and close collaboration among USAID and other partner organizations with regard to overall project performance monitoring and evaluation issues, strategies, and activities.
9. Reports to the Director of the Performance Measurement and Monitoring Unit.

Desired Qualifications:

1. Master's degree or its equivalent in data analysis and performance assessment.
2. Prior experience working in the Philippines, preferably at an LGU level, in related roles
3. Approximately 5 years working experience in management oversight & implementation of activities in measurement of performance and data analysis.
4. Familiarity and understanding of local government systems and development of data systems for performance measurement.

Interested individuals are requested to submit a Letter of Application stating the position applied for together with their resumé either by email or post not later than *(2 wks after posting)* through any of the following:

E-mail : lpilapil@lead.org.ph
Mail : LEAD Project Human Resources Manager
Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T.M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila
Fax : (632) 521-0950

Our clients, **NStyle International** (Accre # 10002029) in Bahrain and **NStyle International Bazzari Nail Care Center** (Accre # 10028063) in UAE, need:

Senior Nail Extension Manicurist
Excellent cuticle works in nail extension works; Well-versed in Salon Menu

Basic Manicurist/Masseuse
Must be knowledgeable in different kinds of massages: aromatheraphy, shiatsu, swedish and reflexology (skillfull in knowing the pressure points); Skillful in relaxing massage -- combination on back, neck, shoulder and scalp massage; Must be appropriate in height and weight to do body massage over client

Basic Manicurist/Nail Technician
Female, between 28-35 years old; 3 years work experience with excellent cuticle French tip works; Well versed in Salon Menu; Conversant in English, neat and presentable; Must have complete set of teeth

Basic Manicurist/Threading
3 years work experience in eyebrow, upperlip, and full facial; Well versed in Salon Menu

Basic Manicurist/Waxing
3 years work experience and currently doing waxing; Skillful and confident in doing full body waxing: armpits, legs specially in bikini area; Knows how to prepare/cook Halawa; Excellent in doing hot wax with waxing strip, cold wax with waxing strip, fruit wax using fruit extracts

All applicants must be female, between 28-35 years old; must be a team player, matured, confident; conversant in English, friendly, with very good PR; neat and presentable and with clear skin; and must have complete set of teeth.
Email resumes to: afernandez@add.com.ph

Our client, **Al Melehy Trading** in Abu Dhabi, UAE needs:

Planning Engineers
Mechanical Engineer with Primavera and minimum of 5 years offshore experience, 35-45 years old

Electrical Technicians, Mechanical Technicians and Instrument Technicians
Minimum diploma in their respective fields, minimum of 5 years work experience in offshore oil fields
Email resumes to: jbelaos@add.com.ph

POEA LICENSE NO. 489-LB-040104-R
ADD | International.
4th Floor Pilar Building, 148 Amorsolo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. No: 813-3000 Fax No : 817-6773

For Manpower Pooling Only. No fees will be collected.

MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (TB, HIV-AIDS and Vitamin A supplementation) and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of the local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends September 30, 2006. *There are two 2-year optional extension periods.*

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to function as Field Coordinators.

FIELD COORDINATORS

Overall Responsibilities:
The Field Coordinator shall be responsible for leading and managing the implementation of project plans, programs and activities, including the provision of attendant financial, organizational, administrative, systems and such other support requirements, in his respective area of operation.

Special Tasks and Responsibilities:

1. Lead and manage the implementation of the annual project/LGU unit work plan, and the formulation and implementation of area specific plans, programs, strategies and activities for the successful implementation of the project/LGU Unit work plan;
2. Lead and manage, oversee, coordinate or facilitate the area implementation of specific plans, programs, strategies, or activities formulated or initiated by the LGU Unit and other units in the project either directly or through subcontracting institutions/organizations or such other methods of implementation;
3. Responsible for the monitoring of project deliverables and this impact of technical assistance at the LGU level;
4. Coordinate with other donors and cooperating agencies supporting related programs in the region of assignment and keep partners informed about the status of project activities;
5. Prepare regular and special reports that project management or the Field Operations Manager may require;
6. Perform such other tasks assigned by the Team Leader and the Field Operations Manager.

Desired Qualifications:

1. A graduate of a social, political, or health-related science course;
2. Has knowledge of the area and preferably comes from the area of operation;
3. Has experience in implementing a health project/program related to FP, MCH, HIV-AIDS, TB Control, Vitamin. A supplementation and health sector reform;
4. Has political savvy and must be a team player;
5. With skills in: advocacy, training, community organizing, and mobilization of BHWs;
6. Has extensive experience in working with LGUs, civil society groups, and private health service providers;
7. Must be adept in the use of MS windows software (e.g. Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.).

Interested individuals are requested to submit a Letter of Application stating the position applied for together with their resumé either by email or post not later than *(2 wks after posting)* through any of the following:

E-mail : lpilapil@lead.org.ph
Mail : LEAD Project Human Resources Manager
Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T. M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila
Fax : (632) 521-0950

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present the

Call Center CONFERENCE AND EXPO 2005 SUPPLEMENT

In support for the **Call Center Conference and Expo 2005** the **Inquirer National Classifieds** will release on **August 19, 2005** a special tabloid-sized pullout section featuring CCAP news, activities and job advertisements.

Just like the previous year, the **Call Center Conference & Expo 2005 Supplement** will be distributed for **FREE** during the event and circulated in **Metro Manila** with the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** – the most read and widest circulated broadsheet in the land.

In celebration of **Inquirer's 20th anniversary,** we offer advertisers a special package:

- FULL COLOR ADVERTISING
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- Reasonable Ad Rates for half page, full page & centerspread ads.

Materials for all paid booked ads (in cash) must be submitted on or before **August 10, 2005.** Materials should be emailed to **ilimbo@inquirer.com.ph.**

Should you have any questions, please call **811-4370 / 4165 / 4361** or **892-5578** (fax) and look for **Ms. Emy Limbo.**

We look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with your company.

ACCEPTABLE AD MATERIAL
TIF Format
300 Pixels Per Inch (resolution)
CMYK Mode

Professional Selling

August 10, 11 & 12, 2005 / 1:00pm-5:00pm / Holiday Inn Galleria

Discover the Secret Techniques that Top Performers use

If you keep doing what you're doing, you'll keep getting what you're getting. It's time to shift gears! Adopt new and unconventional Selling Tactics and Techniques that will INCREASE your sales

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* An Enemy Called Average
* The Magic of Positive Thinking
* How to Boost Your Confidence

Day 2: Sales Presentation Magic

* Increasing Your Convincing Power
* The Glamour Words
* Psychological Triggers
* Body Language

Day 3: Handling Objections & Closing More Sales

* The Psychology of Resistance
* General Ways to Handle Objections
* Handling Price Resistance
* Developing a Closing Instinct
* Creative Closing Techniques

SEMINAR INVESTMENT

Regular Rate starting August 1
Whole Program - P 3,995 + VAT
Per Day - P 1,495 + VAT

Early Bird Rate register before July [illegible]
Whole Program - 3,395 + VAT
Per Day - 1,195 + VAT

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SR ARCHITECTS – Registered Architect, min of 10 yrs experience, computer literate and familiar with International Standard

JR. ARCHITECTS- Registered Architect, min 4 yrs experience in concept designing/detailing and landscape design, knowledgeable in 3D Studio

SR. STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS - Registered Civil Engineer, min 5 years experience in Structural Design, preferably with M.S. in Structural Engineering.

SR. SANITARY ENGINEERS – Registered S.E/C.E with 10 yrs. experience in Plumbing, Water Supply Design, Sewer/Sewage Treatment Plant Design and Feasibility Study on Water Supply.

JR. SANITARY ENGINEERS - Registered Sanitary Engineer, with min 5 yrs in plumbing, water supply, sewer line and sewage treatment plant design

SR. MECHANICAL ENGINEERS - Must be Registered PME, not more than (45) years old. Experience in Construction Management preferably in Airport Construction, min 5 years. Computer literate and willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila.

MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEERS - Registered Mechanical Engineer, min 3 yrs experience in HVAC, Fire Protection & Power Plant Design. Familiar with International Standards. Well versed in AutoCAD.

SR. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS – Registered Electrical Engineer, with minimum five (5) years in electrical work design.

JR. ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS – Registered Electrical Engineer with minimum 1 year experience in electrical work design.

JR. CIVIL ENGINEERS - Registered Civil Engineer with minimum 5 years experience in design of site development works.

Applicants must be preferably CADD literate

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumé with ID photo to:

The Philippine Daily Inquirer
Box No. 200
5th Floor Bldg. B, SM Megamall
Mandaluyong City

NTFP Exchange Programme

The NTFP-EP (Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme), a regional network of organizations based in Southeast Asia (*see* www.ntfp.org), is in search of personnel for the CustomMade Crafts Center (CMCC). CMCC is an alternative product development and marketing arm for indigenous and upland artisans. CMCC is a programme of the NTFP-Task Force, a nationwide network of grassroots NGOs and Peoples Organizations working towards dual goals of forest conservation and enhanced livelihoods. The fl: personnel are needed:

Managing Director

Responsibilities include: overseeing the different functions (finance, marketing, sales, production) of the CMCC, implementing the CMCC business plan, overseeing the performance and monitoring the targets of the various components, managing the CMCC personnel, conceptualizing, directing and implementing marketing, brand management and media related activities, and coordinating with the designers pool.

Qualifications:

- Has had at least 3 years experience in business management
- Has a business management or related degree
- Holds a Masters in Business Management (preferred)
- Has experience in the handicrafts and/or fashion industry (preferred)
- Has familiarity/experience working in the NGO (development) sector
- Has good people management skills
- Fluent in both English and Filipino
- Knowledgeable in the use of Powerpoint, Word and Excel

Sales Officer

The Sales Officer is a junior executive who will focus on conceptualizing and implementing sales strategies in line with the business plan. He /She is responsible for penetrating new and monitoring existing distribution channels. In coordination with the managing director, the sales officer leads in the preparation and management of promotional tools which includes website, product catalogues, brochures and other merchandising materials. The sales officer is responsible for maintaining the showroom and answering customer inquiries and post-sales service.

Qualifications:

- Has had at least 1 year experience in sales, marketing, customer service or related field (preferred)
- Has a degree in sales, marketing or communications (preferred)
- Has familiarity/experience with the handicrafts and/or fashion industry (preferred)
- Has familiarity/experience with/in the NGO (development) sector
- Has good presentation skills, human relation skills and has very good oral and written communication skills.
- Fluent in both English and Filipino.
- Knowledgeable in the use of Powerpoint and Excel
- Knowledgeable in web-site management and layout, graphic art (preferred)

Submit letters of Application and Resumés (including 2 references) to **NTFP-EP, 92-A Masikap Extension, Brgy. Central, Diliman, Quezon City 1101** or e-mail to ntfp.ep@gmail.com **not later than August 4, 2005.** Only short-listed applicants will be notified.

QSC Manpower Services

is in need of:

- ☐ **Sales Advisers** – For THE BODY SHOP outlets (Female, not over 25 years old, and College level)
- ☐ **Safety Officers** – For THE BODY SHOP outlets (Female, not over 30 years old, College Level and with related experience)
- ☐ **Fashion Consultants** – for GIRBAUD outlets (Male/Female, College level, not over 25 years old)
- ☐ **Promoters** – For DUTY FREE Philippines (Female, College Level, must be 5'4" in height, and not over 27 years old)

Applicants are requested to apply in person with 2 pcs 2x2 pictures and latest resumé at 400–B M. Arce St. Heroes del 96 Caloocan City or call 383-33-88 / 364-99-89 (HRD) and look for Ms. Nesreen Enriquez for more information.

NO AGENCY FEE

MSH LEAD

The Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project, funded by the Unites States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning (FP) and selected health services (TB, HIV-AIDS and Vitamin A supplementation) and to improve the policies and financing for these services. The Project will seek to improve the capacity of the local government units (LGUs), particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for FP, TB, MCH, and HIV/AIDS.

The LEAD for Health Project is a three-year contract between USAID and MSH that ends September 30, 2006. *There are two 2-year optional extension periods.*

MSH is currently seeking qualified candidates to function as Contracts Specialist.

CONTRACTS SPECIALIST

Overall Responsibilities:
The Contracts Specialist - Central/Regional will be involved in all aspects of the subcontracting cycle namely, Pre-solicitation, Solicitation, Review and Selection, Pre-award , Award, and Post-award Stages.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:

Pre-solicitation Stage
a. In coordination with the LEAD technical team, develop the Statement of Objectives or Statement of Work for the Request for Proposals in conformance with the terms of the LEAD prime contract.
b. Assist in the selection of contract types, methods of solicitations from available options.
c. Determine options, milestones, and sources to be solicited.
d. Research and interpret United States (US) contracting rules as they apply to the subcontracting.

Solicitation Stage
a. Issue Requests for Proposals with appropriate provisions, well-defined statements of work, and appropriate award factors.

Review and Selection Stage
a. In coordination with the Performance-based Contracts (PBC) Manager, and relevant technical staff within the LEAD team, convene a selection committee for the review of proposals from bidders.
b. Develop required forms for the selection process.
c. Assist in the evaluation and analysis of proposals.
d. Together with the Financial Analyst, review cost proposals vis-à-vis the technical proposals to determine reasonableness, allocability and allowability of the costs proposed.
e. Under the direction of the PBC Manager, negotiate prices, terms and conditions of ranked proposals.
f. Prepare price negotiation memoranda.
g. Make recommendations on the results of evaluation.

Pre-award Stage
a. Refer ranked proposals for pre-award surveys to the Financial Analyst.

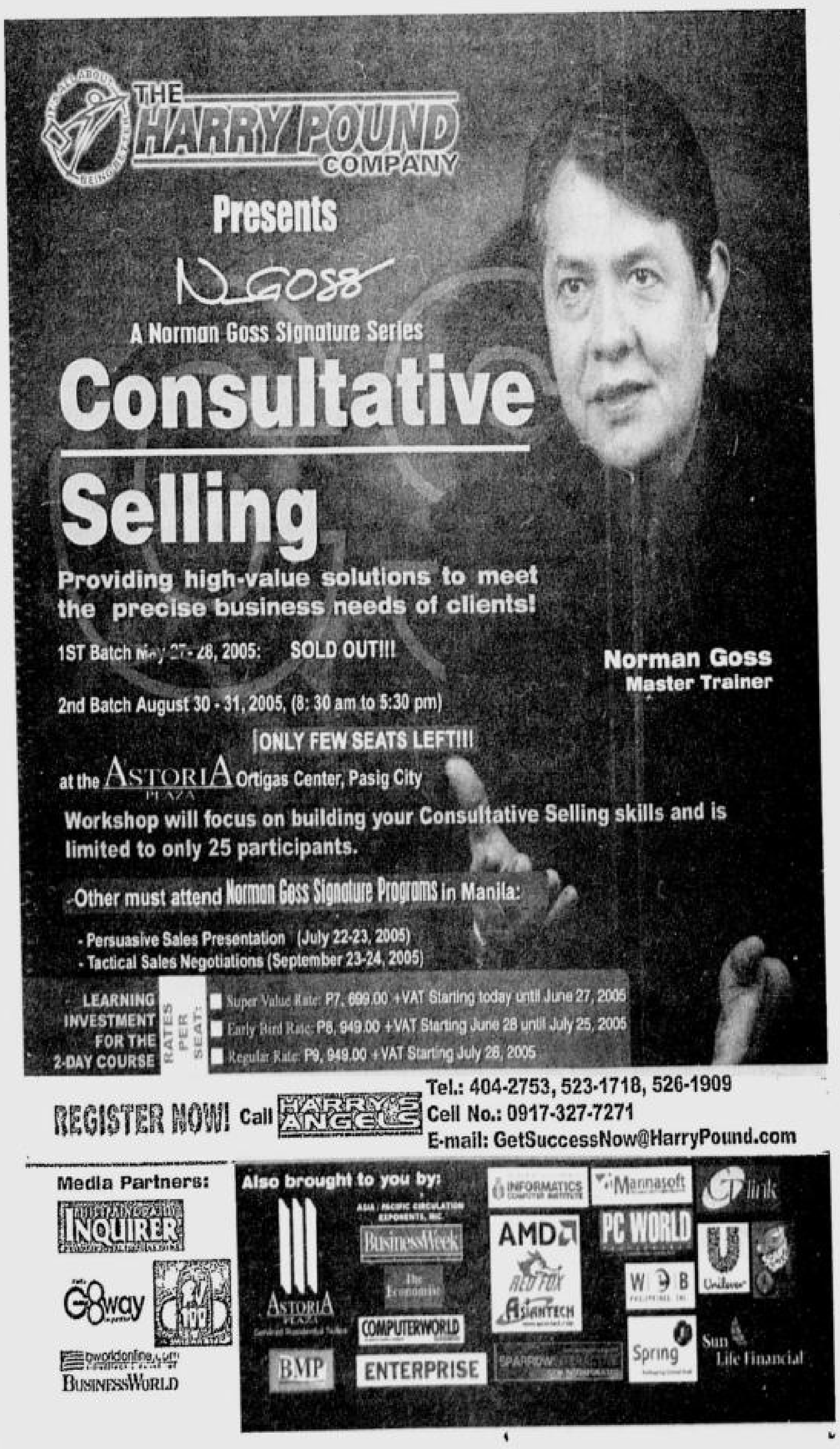
Award Stage
a. Under the direction of the PBC Manager, issues subcontracts to the SIO.

Post-award Stage
a. Serve as contact person for assigned subcontracts.
b. Establish and maintain a system for monitoring assigned subcontracts.
c. Effect subcontract closure at each completed stage of subcontracting.
d. On a regular basis, review the overall contracting process and make recommendations for improvement.

Desired Qualifications:
a. Basic four-year degree in related field
b. Three years or more of actual work experience in the middle management level involving LGU grants and contracts with a foreign donor
c. Familiarity with US government contracting rules
d. Strong computer application skills
e. Thorough and attentive to details
f. Good oral and written communication skills
g. Two years of a specialized experience that demonstrates knowledge of business practices and market conditions applicable to government contracts and grants including subcontract and grant management, tracking, monitoring and evaluation.

Interested individuals are requested to submit a Letter of Application stating the position applied for together with their resumé either by email or post not later than *(2 wks after posting)* through any of the following:

E-mail : jpilapil@lead.org.ph
Mail : LEAD Project Human Resources Manager
Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T.M. Kalaw Avenue corner Cortada Street
Ermita, Manila
Fax : (632) 521-0950



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Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE – ADVERTISING

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Marketing or any Business course
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Interpersonal skills, Report Writing skills, Presentation skills, Filing skills, Communication skills

Responsibility:

- Responsible for establishing and maintaining relationships with clients and ad agencies with the end view of soliciting ad placement to meet overall sales quota.

RESEARCH SECTION HEAD

Qualifications:

- College graduate
- 2 years experience in related or similar job
- 2 years management experience
- Computer skills (Windows, Word, Netscape, Explorer, Excel, Corel Draw, Powerpoint)
- Interpersonal Management / Team Building skills, Analytical skills, follow through skills
- Familiar with publishing industry

Responsibilities:

- Supervises the day to day operations of the Research Section by overseeing the gathering of statistics, reports, backgrounds and other reference materials requested by the Editorial and the writing of special reports and packaged information for publication

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic accounting principles
- Knowledge of different entries in the check voucher
- Knowledge basic computer operation
- Accounting skills, Report Writing skills, Ability to prepare check, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of Psychology or Behavioral Science
- At least 2 years experience in recruitment and selection
- Familiar with psychological tests
- Knows how to use office software
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Analytical Skills, Report Writing Skills

Responsibilities:

- To provide recruitment, selection and employment services and maintain an HR Information System

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Responsibilities:

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- With background in Computer, Photoshop, Pagemaker, CorelDraw
- Knowledgeable in manual and computer based illustration, page design and artwork skills
- 1 year experience as Graphic Artist

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 07-72-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery & Installation of One (1) lot Carpet

BRANCH	AREA	REMARKS
Pavilion	5,000 sq. m.	Supply, delivery and installation
	250 sq. m.	Supply and delivery

Brief Description : Fabric Construction: Tufted, patterned, cut pile carpet tile; Carpet Fiber: Worsterlon 80/20 wool nylon blend; Gauge: 1/8 gauge; Density Factor: 410,256; Yarn weight: 40 oz. square yard/ 1356 gm/sqm; Min. of eight (8) colors that include silver, gold, bronze for 20 designs

Approved Budget : Seventeen Million Two Hundred One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P17,201,250.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from July 29, 2005 to August 22, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eight Thousand Six Hundred & 63/100 (Php 8,600.63).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	August 9, 2005 (2 pm)
Submission of Bids	August 23, 2005 (2 pm)
Opening of Bids	August 23, 2005 (2 pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC 2
(PDI – July 31 & August 7, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 07-82-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery & Installation of Metal Cladding for Casino Filipino – Pavillion

Approved Budget : Seven Million Two Hundred Fifty One Thousand Two Hundred Pesos (P 7,251,200.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from July 29, 2005 to August 19, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Pesos & 60/100 (Php 3,625.60).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	August 8, 2005 (10 am)
Submission of Bids	August 22, 2005 (10 am)
Opening of Bids	August 22, 2005 (10 am onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 4
(PDI – July 31 & August 7, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 07-74-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery & Installation of 1,173 pcs. Theater Seats for Airport Casino Filipino

Approved Budget : Four Million Seven Hundred Thousand Pesos (P4,700,000.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance from **July 22, 2005 to August 12, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Two Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Pesos (Php 2,350.00).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	August 1, 2005 (2 pm)
Submission of Bids	August 15, 2005 (2pm)
Opening of Bids	August 15, 2005 (2pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO
Chairperson, BAC 3
(PDI – July 24 & 31, 2005)

For Immediate Hiring

ACCOUNTANT/ AUDITOR

- Must be a graduate of Accountancy
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= 18 TO 24 YEARS OLD AT LEAST 5'3 AND ABOVE FOR FEMALE W/ PLEASING PERSONALITY / 5'7 AND ABOVE FOR MALE & CAN SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH

= Apply personally at 5012 P. Burgos St., Makati City

Tel # 897-2053-57 / 897-8130 / 897-6602
Interview Mon-Fri 2-5 p.m. only
Pls. Contact: Ms. Brenda / Abeth

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AC Technician
Experienced in Air Handling Unit (AHU), Fan Coil Unit (FCU), and Chillers.

Mechanical Engr.
Experienced in Building Maintenance.

Shift Engineer
Familiar with Generator, BMS, and Chiller

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Diliman, Quezon City

Five-day management training program

COMPETITIVE advantage and organizational excellence are realized when strategy, structure, technology, products and services are managed efficiently and people are motivated to perform their functions with passion, commitment and dedication.

The manager is central to achieving all of these. Unless the manager creates, promotes and develops a milieu that secures and sustains cooperation and support of the people within the organization, development changes will be difficult to achieve.

It is in this context that ECOP will be conducting a 5-day live-in seminar to provide rich insights and novel perspectives on the essentials of management to executives and would-be executives. It will equip managers with the necessary tools to form an organization geared for performance.

To be held at MMLDC in Antipolo City from August 8-12, the seminar will enable current and aspiring managers to examine their own blueprint of thoughts and actions, and reinforce or alter such pattern to do their job well. Professionals and management practitioners will show participants how to work with people to accomplish ends and produce results!

For inquiries, please contact Zeni Bonghanoy of the Ecop training and development department at 890-4845, 890-4847 or 899-0411.

Ballet Philippines celebrates 36

BALLET Philippines celebrates its 36th year of bringing powerful and evocative performances through its first offering of another memorable season; "Men and Women" on August 5, 6 and 7 at the CCP Main Theater.

The battle of the sexes, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks struggling for human dignity, or perhaps an ordinary couple's simple encounter. These and more are the stories behind "Men and Women", choreographed by three masters of dance; Ballet Philippines' artistic director Bam Damian, associate artistic director Alden Lugnasin and guest choreographer Enrico Labayan.

For more information contact Ballet Philippines at 551-1003, 551-0221, and 832-6011. E-mail us at balletphilippines@pldtdsl.net or visit our webpage at www.ballet.com.ph

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BIARSP

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Training Activities

The **Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Programme** (BIARSP) is a bilateral development programme between the Governments of the Philippines and Belgium. Its aim is to assist the Department of Land Reform (DLR) formerly Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to successfully complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

BIARSP is currently on its third and final phase of implementation. BIARSP is regarded as one of the most important programmes for agrarian reform. It is highly regarded on account of its integrated approach covering not only agricultural support services but also education, public health and institutional capacity building.

The Institutional Capacity Building (ICB) component is granted a prominent importance in BIARSP Phase III. This component is intended to cover all areas that will improve the ability of DLR and its partner agencies to ensure the sustainability of the projects undertaken with the help of BIARSP along with other Agrarian Reform Community (ARC) programs and projects. The need for a comprehensive capacity-building plan for the DLR staff has been recognized. Due attention is also being given to Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) activities to ensure the sensitization of partners and a strengthened collaboration among stakeholders.

BIARSP-TSCO invites eligible institutions and companies to express their interest in providing training activities on:

- Powerful Presentation Techniques
- Developing IEC Messages and Print Materials

Interested parties are invited to visit www.biarsptsco.org (OPPORTUNITIES – Tenders) for the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) of each training activity as well as standard format for budgetary requirements. Please submit technical proposal/s with information such as company profile, brochure, budgetary requirements, key qualification of resource persons, description/experience of similar assignments through any of the following:

E-mail : tsco@biarsp.org
Post : BIARSP – TSCO, 2nd Floor Sol Y Mar Bldg.,
Cor. Rizal Blvd. – San Juan Street,
Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental
Fax : (035) 422-7736

For further queries, please get in touch with Ma. Teresa C. Valencia, IEC Officer, at tel. #s: (035) 225-5929; 225-5930; 225-8661; and 422-7459.

In view of the urgency of the activities and the projected availability of the target participants on the proposed schedules, interested parties are advised to submit their proposals not later than August 12, 2005.

(PDI–July 31 & August 1, 2005)

JOB Market ONLINE
visit us at:
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GOMECO AND MULTI-MACH RENEW SPONSORSHIP IN WOFEX 2005

THE country's most anticipated food show, World Food Expo (Wofex) 2005 organized by Premiere Events Plus Group Inc. (PEPGroup), is once again slated this year from Aug. 3 to 6 at the World Trade Center, Manila Philippines. This annual exposition expects over 500 foreign and local exhibitors and over 30,000 trade visitors for this year. Wofex serves as venue to the widest range of food processors (import and export), raw materials and ingredients, bakery products, manufacturing, handling and packaging machines, kitchen tools and equipment and a lot more. Gomeco Metal Corporation and Multi-mach International Inc. are both leaders in the manufacturing and importation of high quality stainless steel food service equipment. In photo during the dealing of agreement, from left, are Jonathan Kaw (General Manager of Gomeco), Oliver Kaw (General Manager of Multi-mach), Rafael Dizon (Chairman of PEPGroup) and George Kaw (Chairman of Gomeco and Multi-mach). For WOFEX inquiries, call PEPGroup at 9297993 or 63, 4354790, 4364209, 4269603, 9208136 or email at info@PEPGroup.com or check website at www.PEPGroup.com

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTANT SERVICES)

PHILIPPINES
World Bank IDF Grant for Strengthening Internal Audit Units
East Asia and Pacific, General Public Services
CONSULTING SERVICES
Grant No. TF055185

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Finance has received a grant from the World Bank IDF for Strengthening Internal Audit Units for Effective Procurement Monitoring and Enforcement. Part of the grant proceeds shall be used to procure the services of a consulting firm which shall undertake the aforementioned activity within ten months following the signing of the contract.

The services provided by the firm shall cover, among others (a) an internal audit survey, mapping out the status of internal audit units (IAUs) in all agencies and government corporations; (b) development and codification of Procurement Internal Auditing Standards; (c) assessment of the quality of the operation of Internal Audit Units (IAUs) in selected agencies (d) design of a quality assurance program for the operation of the IAUs; (e) development of recommendations to strengthen the IAUs (f) formulation of a generic internal audit manual, and (g) Customization and piloting of the manual in selected agencies including training of IAUs.

The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission now invites interested firms to submit relevant information indicating their qualification to perform the above mentioned services. Relevant qualifications include extensive experience in internal/external auditing, track record in conducting surveys, expertise in procurement systems and standards, experience with government operations, and expertise in conducting trainings. A firm shall be selected in accordance with Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS) method prescribed under the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers published in May 2004.

Interested firms must submit their letters of expressions of interest together with their qualification documents on August 15, 2005 to:

The Bids and Awards Committee
The Presidential Anti-Graft Commission
2/F Watson Bldg., J.P. Laurel St.
Malacañang, Manila

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Charito Alvarado at telephone nos 924-1311 or 735-0261 and at fax no. 925-8928 or 929-6445

(Sgd.) CONSTANCIA P. DE GUZMAN, MNSA. Ph.D
Chairman

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS
OF
PAMANTASAN NG ARAULLO (ARAULLO UNIVERSITY), INC.

Please be notified that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of the Pamantasan ng Araullo (Araullo University), Inc. will be held on **18 August 2005, at 3:30 p.m., at Araullo University, Cabanatuan City,** with the following agenda:

1. Notice of quorum
2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting
3. Reading and approval of annual report and audited financial statements for fiscal year 2004-2005
4. Appointment of external auditor
5. Ratification of acts of the Board of Directors and Executive Officers during the year 2004
6. Election of Trustees
7. Other matters

ATTY. TROY A. LUNA
Corporate Secretary

(PDI–July 31, 2005)

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

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OBITUARIES

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845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

"For God
so loved the
world, that
He gave His
only begotten
Son, that
whoever
believes in
Him shall not
perish but
have
everlasting
life."
John 3:16

CONRADO MAGTIBAY ESCANO, DMD

September 27, 1927 – July 23, 2005
of Rosario, Batangas, Philippines and
Hercules, California, USA

Beloved husband of Buena Aguilar Escano. Loving father of Jocelyn, Jose, Lloyd and Ian. Devoted father-in-law of Judy Mallilin, Rita De Guzman and Annariza Garcia and the cherished grandfather of Justine Ashley, Joseph Benedict, Stephen Lloyd and Jada Anne. Caring brother of Consolacion Escano-Cuartero and brother-in-law of Anita Gonzales-Escano, Crescencia Perez-Escano and Domingo Cuartero. Youngest son of the late Municipal President Venustiano Agbay Escano and Dona Esperanza Magtibay Escano.

Rading, to his family and friends, touched many lives with his gentle spirit and positive outlook on life. A very humble and simple family man, he was born in Rosario, Batangas, Philippines and graduated with a degree of Doctor of Dental Medicine from Philippine Dental College. He was a reserved Lieutenant Colonel of the Armed forces of the Philippines, an adviser of the "Jacket Boys" of Rosario, Batangas and an active member of the Lions Club, Batikan Club and Holy Name Society of the Philippines.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Joseph Church, Pinole California, USA on August 2nd, 2005 at 10:00 am.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Juliana de Guzman dela Paz

of Marikina City

who peacefully joined our Lord
on 15 July 2005

wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, visited, kept vigil, joined us in the funeral rites, and in countless other ways comforted and condoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

RODOLFO E. CUEVAS, Ph.D

Retired Associate Professor, U.P. Los Baños
NGO worker

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 28, 2005
at the age of 57.

He will be missed by his loving wife, **Dr. Virginia Castillo Cuevas**; children **Agham** and wife **Camille**, **Sining**, **Likha** and **Kalikasan**; grandchildren **Luke** and **Hanns**; brothers, sisters, relatives and friends.

His body lies in state at the Resurrection Chapel St. Therese Church, U.P. Los Baños College, Laguna.

Necrological services will be on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 at St. Therese Chapel UPLB, which will be followed by cremation at Manila Memorial Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque.

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Carol **(0917) 849-1952 / 723-2975** (ofc. hrs.)
4 Urns in 1 Vault

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Yao Koo aka Bensing Co aka Benson Co

who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 19, 2005.

wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy and for the generous donations from the different schools that he served, and who in countless ways, condoled with and comforted us in our hour of bereavement.

THE MISSIONARY
BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF TUTZING
St. Scholastica's Priory

are happy to announce that in the
early morning of July 29, 2005

SISTER MARGARITA ALOVERA, OSB, 92

received what she ardently desired:
To go HOME to the FATHER.

As the Missionary Benedictine Sisters are celebrating the centennial of Benedictine Presence in the Philippines, they pay special tribute to her as the first Filipino Prioress.

Her remains lie in state at St. Scholastica's Chapel, Manila. Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City on August 2, 2005 after the nine o'clock morning Funeral Mass at Scholastica's Chapel.

An obituary with a picture
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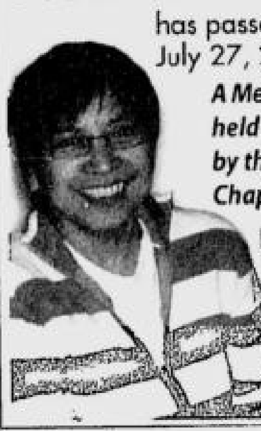
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS •
FREE OBIT DESIGN

Josie Hernandez de Leon Marshall



has passed away in the grace of our Lord on July 27, 2005 in Sudbury, Ontario, Canada.

A Memorial Gathering for our dear Jopye will be held on Wednesday, August 3 at 5 p.m., followed by the Holy Mass at 7p.m. at Delaney Hall, UP Chapel in Diliman, Quezon City

Dave and Dan, Lee, Ezra and Ira, Cindy, Melissa , Leo, Carolyn and Richie, Butch, Julie, Biboy, Andrea and Cynthia, and relatives and friends request the kind reader to pray for her eternal rest.

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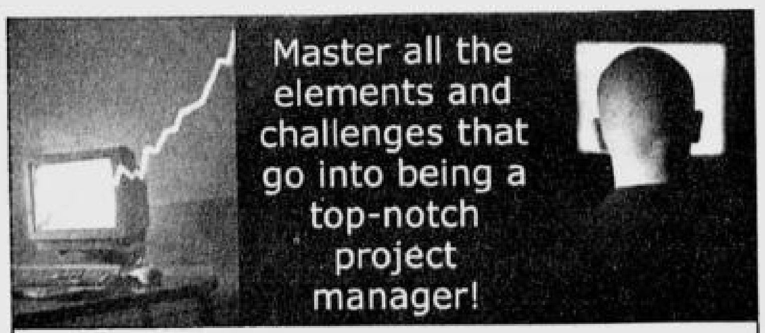

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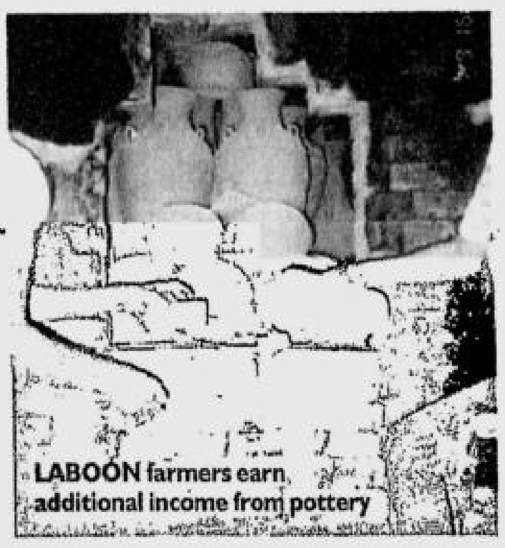
Poverty-free zone in Southern Leyte


LABOON farmers earn additional income from pottery

MAASIN, SOUTHERN LEYTE—Like many other farmers in her neighborhood, Virgie Duenas, resident of the upland village of Hantag in Maasin, Southern Leyte, knew she cannot rely on a single crop. She must diversify her sources of income in order to shield her family from price fluctuations that characterize most agricultural products.

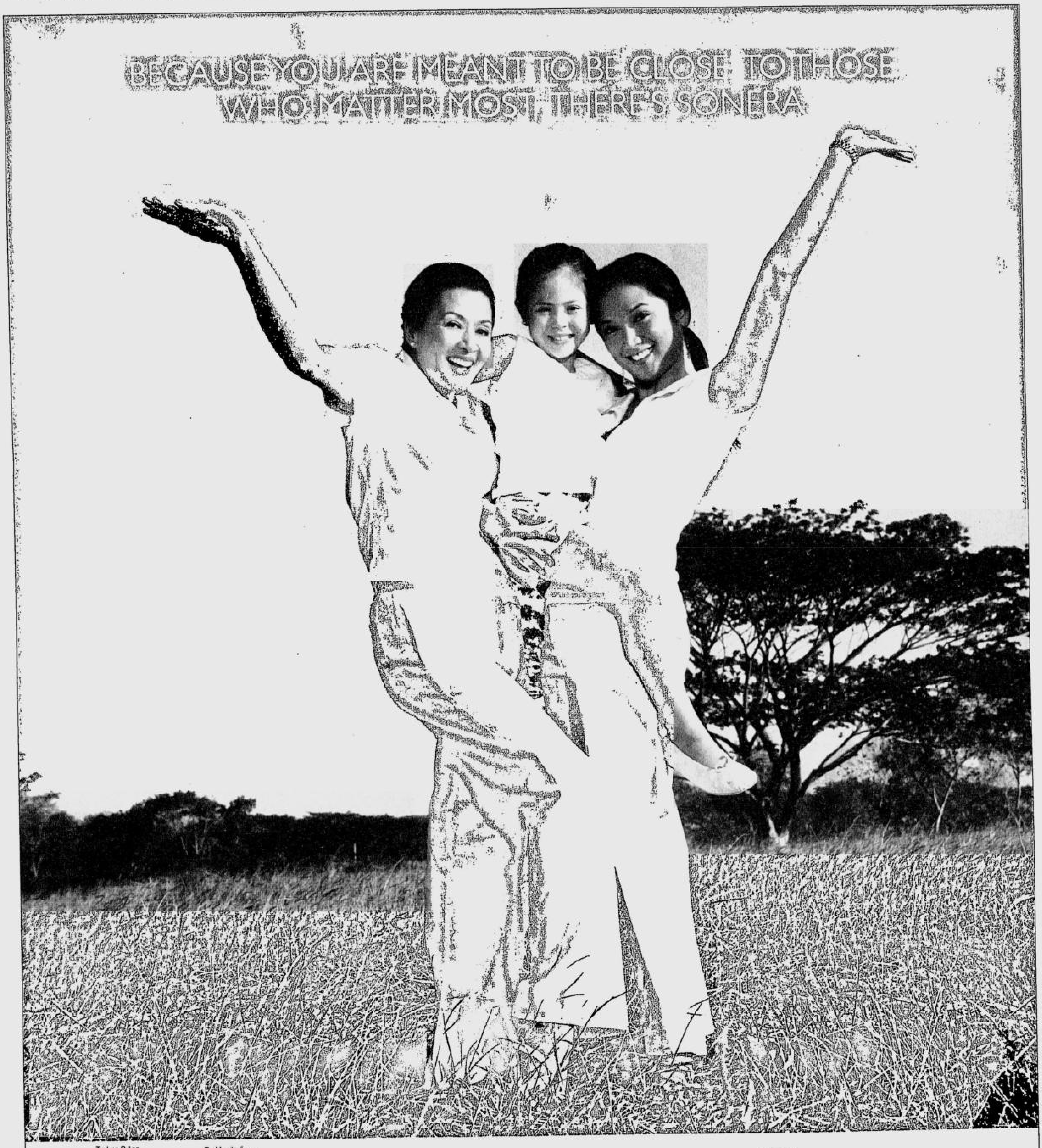
Thus, when Virgie and other Hantag residents were given the opportunity to develop *abaca*-based products, the Hantag farmers immediately took time out to learn the trade through the basic skills training and upgrading programs conducted by the Departments of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Labor and Employment (DOLE).

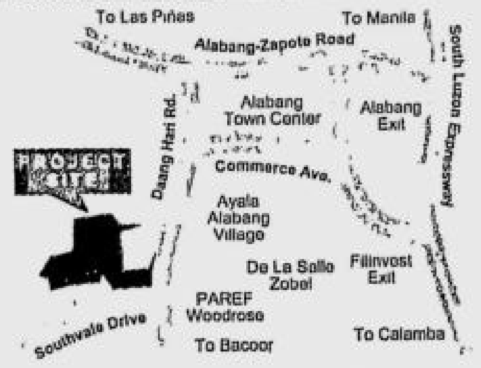
Today, more than 100 members of the Hantag Farmers Multi Purpose Cooperative Inc. (HAFAMCI) are earning additional income by producing *tinagak* (continuous spooled abaca fiber) and *sinamay* (hand woven cloth out of tinagak), which they now sell to an exporter based in Manila.

Japanese International Cooperation Agency consultant Yasushi Fukushima, who was involved in the project, had twice ordered sinamay bags for souvenirs and promotional items in Japan.

In Laboon, a village adjacent to Hantag, Estrellita Ortega, along with 25 others, are earning additional income from yet another craft—pottery, now a thriving enterprise. Ortega is the production

POVERTY-FREE/ B3


BECAUSE YOU ARE MEANT TO BE CLOSE TO THOSE WHO MATTER MOST, THERE'S SONERA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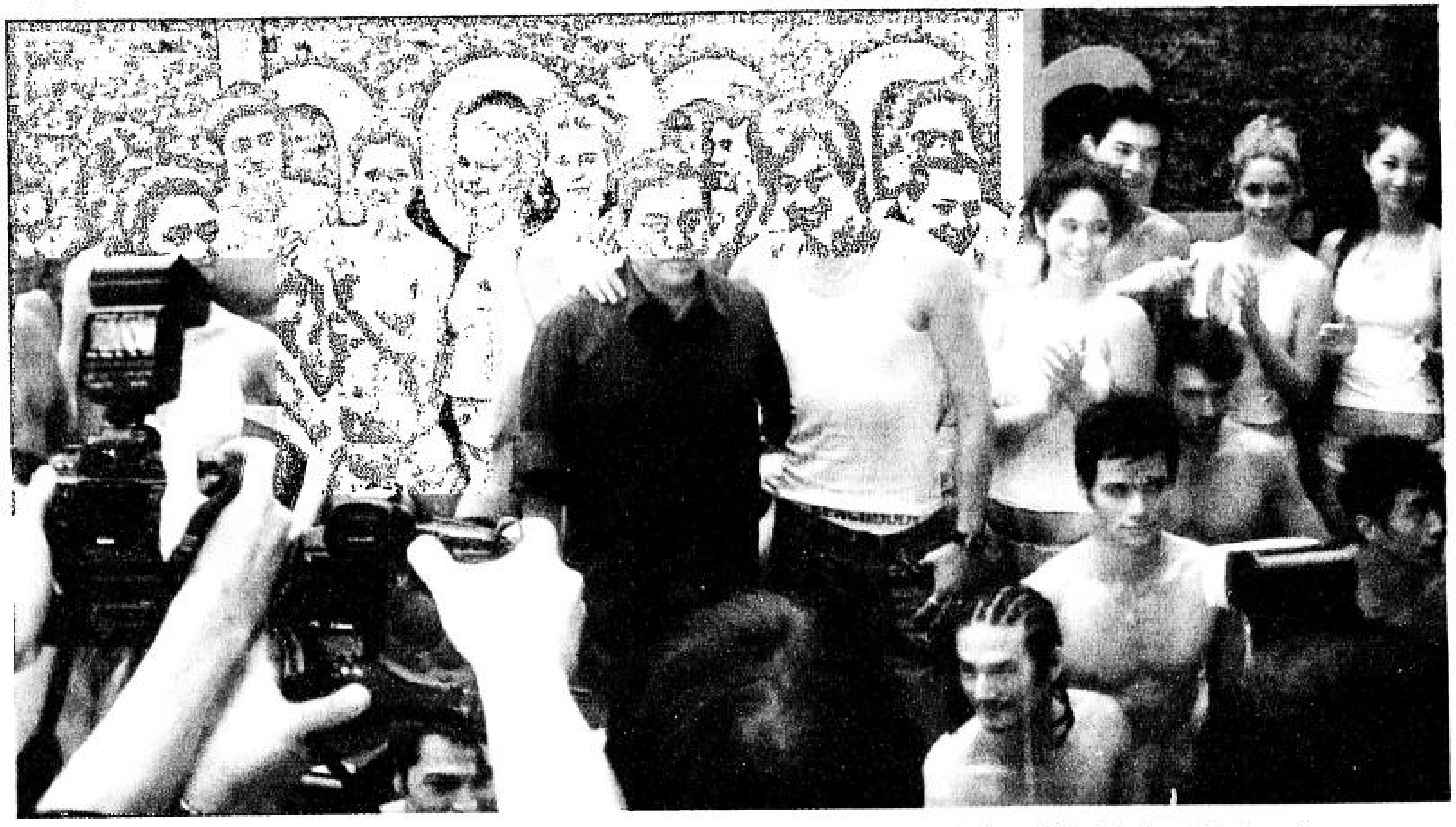
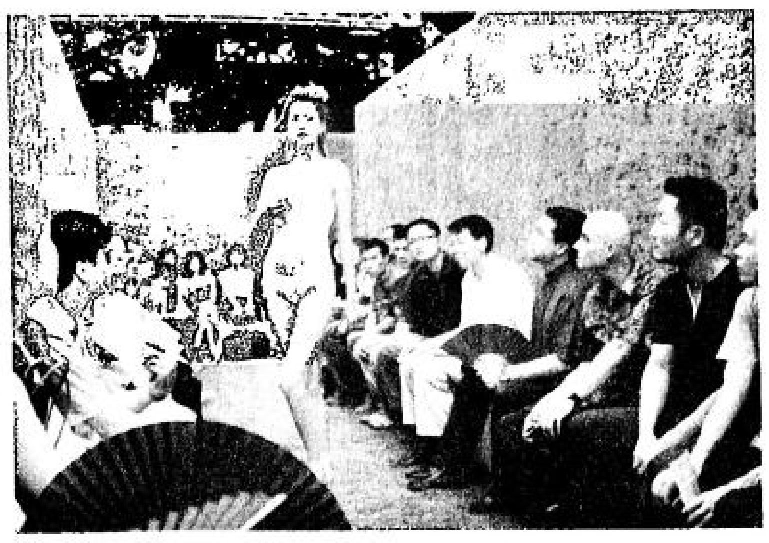
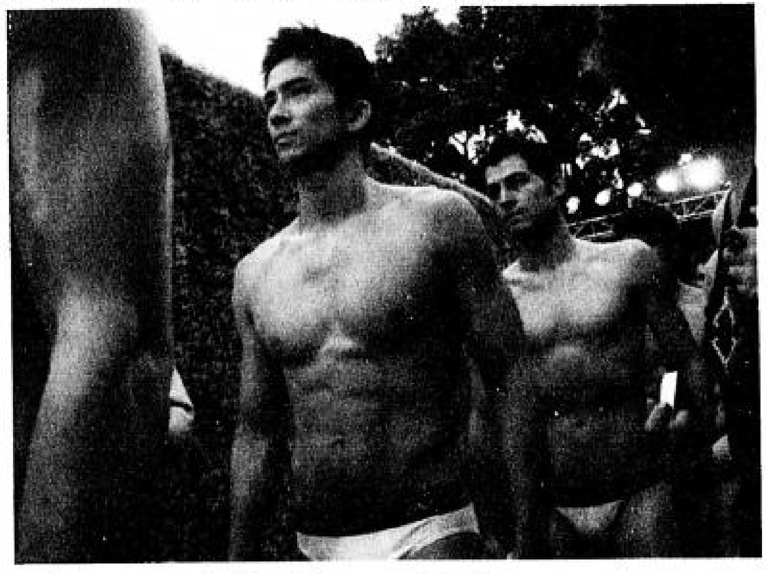


FIERY FINALE. Bench big boss Ben Chan and new image model Peter Ho surrounded by bodies beautiful, all in Bench Body underwear



WHOEVER said tankinis are less provocative than bikinis has not seen one on this Chinese model (above). To even things out, men's underwear get skimpier by the minute (below).



Shanghai scorcher

Bench supports the right to bare arms and other body parts

FROM Shanghai to Hollywood and back, actress Joan Chen ("The Last Emperor," "Twin Peaks," "Tai-pan"), who also directed "Autumn in New York," enjoys the show with her daughters.

Text and photos by Chelo Banal-Formoso
More photos by Archie Chan

SHANGHAI registered the hottest July 3 in more than 130 years the Sunday the latest collection of Bench Body innerwear was unveiled in an afternoon garden show at the city's Museum of Arts and Crafts. The Shanghai Daily reported that the temperature came close to tying the all-time high of 40.2 degrees, which happened in mid-July 1934, and that the heat kept the emergency hotlines busy.

Global warming? Maybe so. But those who came to the Bench Body bikinifest knew better than to blame the heat on an aging ozone layer. As for the rest of Shanghai, they got to know what caused the heat wave upon watching the television broadcast of the provocative parade directed by Melvin Lho of Singapore.

In an assortment of size, shape and race, male and female models romped around a garden maze a la "A Midsummer Night's Dream," except this was late afternoon and the garden was made of faux grass—green, yes, but not quite real. As if that wasn't scorching enough, the overhead lighting raised the temperature a few more degrees. The music, too, complemented the uninhibited vibe.

Higher voltage still was the new endorser for Bench Body in China, an actor by the name of Peter Ho whose half-naked, larger-than-life image on a giant billboard greeted guests upon arrival at the venue.

SHANGHAI/ C2

OLIVER TO
5th Year BS Manufacturing Eng'g & Management
De La Salle University Student Council Officer
NBA Games Aficionado

PLDT myDSL allows me to gain extensive knowledge on issues here and anywhere in the world, helps me finish my schoolwork fast and keeps me updated on the latest NBA happenings! I can even use my landline while I'm on the Net.

GEORGINA WILSON
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Ateneo de Manila University
Dean's Lister & Commercial Model
Fashion & Music Lover

A fast Internet connection is essential especially when I'm trying to make the most of my study hours. Waiting for sites to download isn't just part of my agenda! I also go online to look at all the fashion websites, check hiphop & techno sites, see current charts and download music. I use it everyday! It's crazy, I'm seriously addicted!

PATRICIA EVANGELISTA
4th Year BA Speech Communications
University of the Philippines
Winner, 2004 International Public Speaking Contest in London & Studio 23 TV Host
Literature Addict

My prof lets class off every third session so we'd have a "download day" on the next meeting's topic. Internet is absolutely necessary for research. The faster the connection, the more things get done. There's an incredible variety of information and applications out there—it's just a matter of finding the right tool to take them. I believe PLDT myDSL is that tool.

CHOLO RAMIREZ
2nd Year BA Architecture
University of Sto. Tomas
Student Council Officer
Badminton Enthusiast

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* Borzekowski, Dina "Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine" John Hopkins University, 2005

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Oriental knight in skivvies

STILL in his Bench undergarments, the actor works the crowd.

WAY larger-than-life billboard makes for a dramatic backdrop to the real Peter Ho, Bench's new endorser in China.

PETER who? Peter Ho, the Taiwanese star with the gorgeous tan and fab abs and stylish hair, that's who.

Although four years ago, Peter did a Chinese movie in the Philippines that was shown in China and Hong Kong, Pinoys are not as mad about him as they've been about Jerry Yan. Not yet anyway. But it was a different story in China. He was big in Shanghai. People were thrilled to see Peter at the Bench Body underwear show.

Bringing up the rear (pun intended), he looked definitely overdressed for the show in his Bench tank top and low-rider jeans that showed his garter briefs. But the smile he flashed and the glint of mischief in his eyes seemed more seductive to the crowd. So much more that almost everyone whisked out a digital camera to take photographs.

"I like Bench underwear very much," said Peter after the show. "I think it's cool that it's cut in many different variations, many different styles."

Where in the past underwear was just underwear, plain and simple, Bench's inner garments were made with style now, he noted.

"It's like wearing a swimsuit. You feel more comfortable, more confident, even if you're just wearing underwear."

Peter loves Bench boxer shorts and wears them to sleep. "Theoretically they're better for your... " and he left the sentence trailing.

He doesn't think he is sexy. "I just think I'm healthy, and I feel good about myself," he said. If I'm sexy or not, it's not for me to judge."

But like other men whose careers depend on their looks, Peter watches his diet, and tries to make it to the gym at least three times a week.

Intense

"I try to do more cardio training," he said. "It's important to focus. A good intense 40-min workout is better than a loose 2-hour workout."

Between the gym and the TV studio, not to mention the product endorsements, he barely has time to meet women. Peter said he preferred sweet-faced women. "I've always liked Winona Ryder. I think she's sexy. To me sexy is not just the body. I think it's the eyes, the smile..."

Born in California the youngest of three children, he was brought to Taiwan by his parents and enrolled in an American school. "My hero is my dad. He's a good father, a romantic husband even at his age, a really responsible boss in his company."

By the time he was of high school age; the family had moved to Canada. In college, still in Canada, he took up graphic design, advertising and illustration. "When I was young I wanted to be a cartoonist. I'm into photography now." His photographs are part of a book on shoes that will soon be released in Taiwan.

Peter has done mostly Chinese language television since he came back to Asia nine years ago. He has also been cast in some movies in Japan. "It's a good market but it's very difficult to start a career in Japan," observed the tall and tan heartthrob who looked forward to being on the big screen in Taiwan, China and Hong Kong next year.

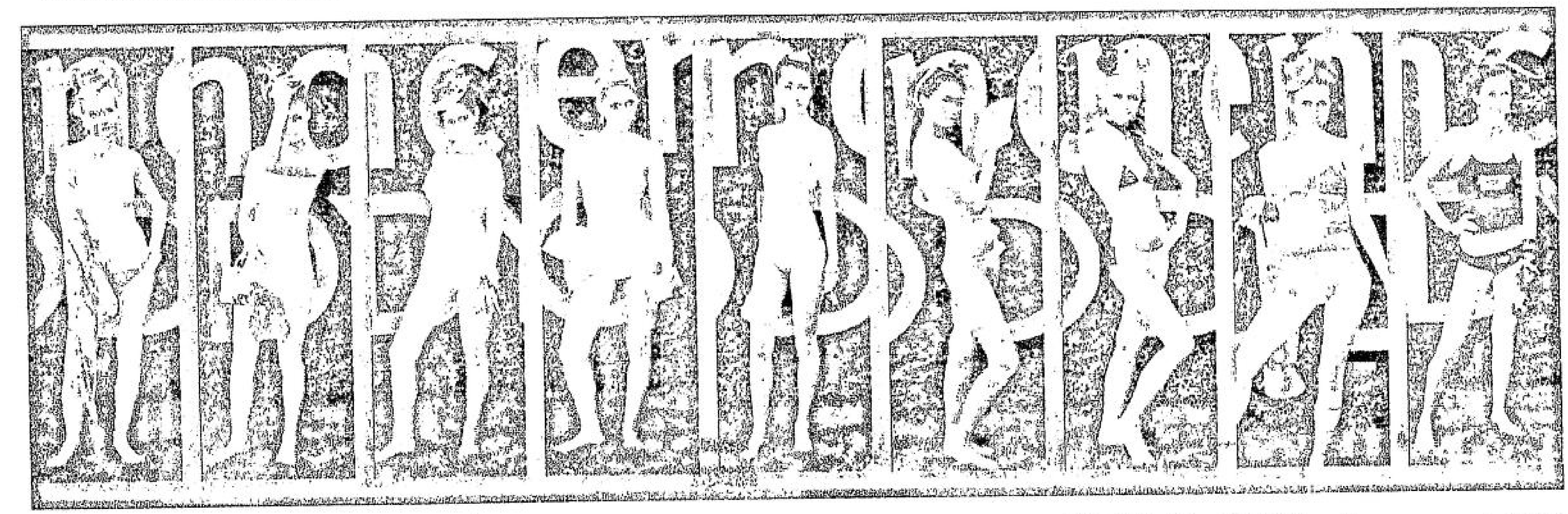
"My biggest goal is to be a director," he confessed. And why not? "I've been acting for so many -years, I know photography, I know lighting." He added he would like to make a movie like "City of God," which is his favorite film.

He has also recorded music albums, mostly of Chinese pop ballads. His new album will have more soft rock. "It's always good to know there's a lot of people listening to you. That means they're sharing your thoughts. There's, like, a bond."

He recalled he could not sing as a kid. "When I was 18, I had a very popular voice teacher in Canada. After two months, she gave up on me. In her whole career she had never met anyone like me."

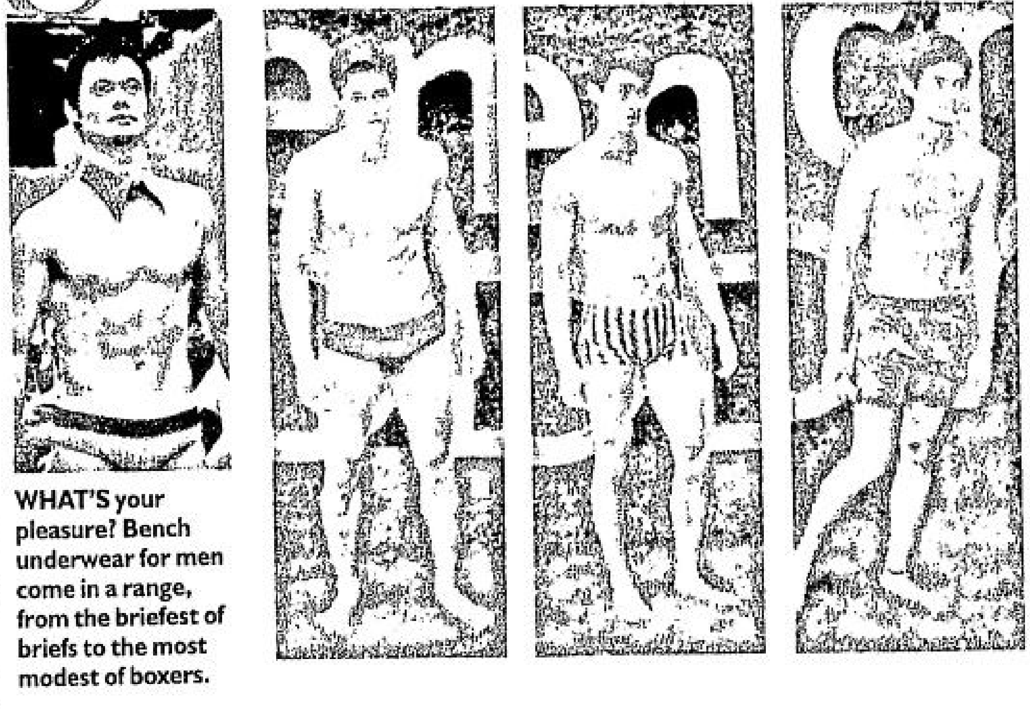
Well, well. Teacher should see him now.

Chelo Banal-Formoso



Shanghai scorcher

From page C1



WHAT'S your pleasure? Bench underwear for men come in a range, from the briefest of briefs to the most modest of boxers.

FASHION designer Patrice Ramos-Diaz (second from left) and furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue (right) with Bench president Virgilio Lim (leftmost), Bench advertising manager Jojo Liamson (third from left) and friends

CLOWNING around before the show: Miguel Pastor and Melvin Chua

Bench chair Ben Chan, who would normally wear black, donned a shirt in an eggplant hue for the show, and he looked hot, weather- and fashion-wise.

This is the second year that Chan, always cutting edge in his marketing approach, has dared to bedazzle Shanghai with an underwear show. The bright alfresco setting contrasted starkly with last year's dramatic lighting and smoky atmosphere in a warehouse by the Suzhou creek.

Instead of a ramp, there was a grassy path where the models strutted their stuff, so to speak. Guests sipped Moët champagne out of long-stemmed tulip-shaped goblets and looked blissfully lost in paradise.

Four times a year, Bench Body turns out trunks full of adorable barely-theres. Itsy-bitsy bikinis, teeny-weeny thongs, tankinis that draw attention to curves, low riding boy shorts that, more than brazen bareness, give oomph to the backside—the variation on the theme of seduction is almost endless.

The new boudoir line that was presented in Shanghai definitely sizzled with vivid colors, graphic details, floral prints and a skimpiness that confirmed once and for all that a little can go a long way.

According to Bryan Lim, Bench vice president for product development, the Chinese market is particularly enamored with embellishment even on lingerie, and doesn't mind paying more for good quality.

Could Bench be any luckier? The company broke into the Shanghai lingerie market just when economic progress was right around the corner for China. Unlike in the Philippines where Bench sells more underwear for men than women, the proudly Pinoy brand's innerwear business in China is on an even keel. Men's undergarments make up half of the revenue and women's intimates, the other half.

There are now 12 Bench Body stores in China, five in Shanghai alone, including the branch which recently opened at the popular Ziang Yang Market. Scheduled to open soon are a Bench Body in Chong qing and another one in Jinjiang.

In the Philippines, Bench Body boutiques are located in almost all major malls.

THE NEWEST Bench Body store in Shanghai stands next to Jollibee-owned restaurant in Ziang Yang Market.

PINOY contingency in the audience: Neil de Gula, Jules Torres, Julie Torres, Douglas Quijano, Angelica Suiza and Millet Mananquil

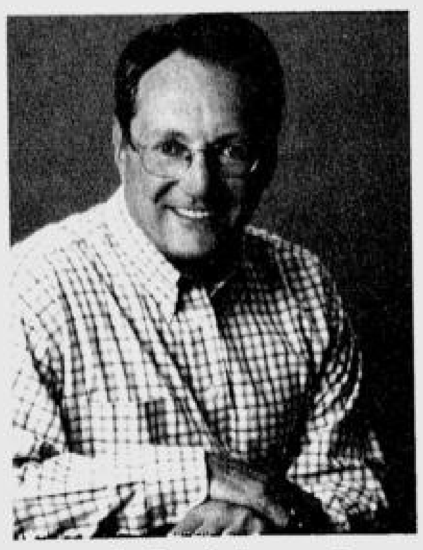
SISTERS Suyen and Christine Lim who both handle marketing and product development for Bench

PENSIVE Bryan Lim is Bench's vice president for business development.

RARITY. That's what you call an interview with Ben Chan, chair of the Bench group of companies, seen here obliging a request for Shanghai TV interview.

Understanding how children learn to ACCELERATE their development

Attention Control
Memory
Motor
Spatial Ordering
Higher Thinking
Language
Sequential Ordering
Social Thinking



Dr. Mel Levine

Pediatrician, Author & Director,
Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, University of North Carolina

Filipinos value education highly. We send our children to the best schools we can afford, and hope they do well and succeed later in life. Some kids will amaze their parents with exemplary performance. But what if your child struggles or is not considered "bright" in class? Do you just submit to the notion that he's "challenged" or "lazy"?

For the past 30 years, world renowned professor and pediatrician Dr. Mel Levine has pioneered programs for understanding how children learn. He believes that children who struggle – as well as those who shine – do so because of how their brain is wired.

Dr. Levine says the mind has "neuro-developmental constructs", what he calls the systems of a mind. Each of these systems is responsible for a different function. These systems are dependent upon each other and should work well together to make learning successful (just like the body, where overall health is the sum of different systems that work together).

Dr. Levine also says every child is "strong" in a number of these functions, and he can use these strengths to overcome his weaknesses. Understanding how your child's mind is wired will help you figure out these strengths and how to best develop them. It will also help your child adapt the lessons he is taught to the way in which he learns.

What are the systems of a mind?

THere are 8 systems of a mind, first of which is the **Attention Control System**. This is the system that manages the distribution of energy within the brain. It controls learning and behavior which helps a child concentrate and pay attention to what he does. It makes him listen and do the right thing at the right time. It slows down his thinking, helping him focus and concentrate on a given task, and finish it at an efficient rate. It also allows him to stay alert throughout the day. Developing your child's attention skills is crucial, as it affects many of his other mental functions. One way to help your child focus is to plan ahead for a task he is assigned to do. You can also let him work in a place that he finds comfortable, and allow him to go through a task at his own pace.

The **Memory System** enables a child to remember. This is very important in school where each subject requires a memory workout. It helps him remember the things he needs to know such as facts, events, the spelling of words, names of people, and other important information. Not everyone is wired with a photographic memory, but each person can make the most of his or her abilities. Encouraging your child to make his own strategies in remembering (like drawing charts of what he's trying to remember or using mnemonics) will help him develop his memory system. Other ways include the use of technologies like the computer or a recorder to help him remember things better.

The **Language System** is another system of the mind. It gives a child the ability to understand, remember, and start using new vocabulary. It improves the way he expresses his thoughts while speaking or writing. It also helps him know the difference in language sounds, and this helps him understand what he reads and hears. One way of building up your child's language skill is influencing him with your love for reading. Do storytelling in your free time or give him books and other materials with subjects that interest him. Also, teach him how to play word games (computer or board games) that will help him discover new words, broadening his vocabulary.

The **Spatial Ordering System** helps a child identify, distinguish and compare patterns and lets him know how parts of things fit together. It lets him remember where he put things, helping him become organized. This is also how he can easily think of the things he needs. On a more complex level, spatial ordering enables him to think visually, letting him convert words to pictures in his mind. A well-developed spatial ordering system will enhance your child's creativity, so try starting him off early, with picture and puzzle games. If he is into drawing or painting, encourage him by giving him art materials.

Then there's the **Sequential Ordering System**, which helps a child deal with information that comes in a particular order. It is the working partner of the Spatial Ordering System. It gives him the basis for time management (understanding, estimating, allocating time and being aware of its passage) which helps him become proficient in finishing tasks with detailed instructions. You can help your child exercise this skill at home, by reminding him to keep things in order at all times. For even more challenging tasks, let him do activities with detailed instructions, like learning how to fold paper airplanes or make pizza.

Another part of the systems of the mind is the **Motor System**. This controls the tight connections between the brain and muscles all over the body. It determines whether or not a child would excel in sports, and if so, what particular sport he would excel in. Motor coordination is very important for your child, because it greatly contributes to his overall self-concept and confidence. One way parents can help is by enrolling kids in sports and performing arts workshops. Teaching him how to play a musical instrument will help improve his hand-eye coordination and contribute to the development of his motor skills.

The **Higher Thinking System** helps a child solve problems and reason logically, helping him form concepts, and understand how rules apply. It lets him understand complicated ideas that make him open-minded. Also, it allows him to think critically and creatively. Your child will rely ever-increasingly on this skill as he grows up, so it pays to develop his higher thinking system early on. You could do this by exposing him to intellectual ideas. One way is by encouraging discussions at the dinner table and letting him participate by listening to what he has to say.

Last is the **Social Thinking System**, which enables your child to maintain successful relationships, establish friendships and keep old ones afloat. It helps him talk to anyone comfortably, making him good at working with a group. It also lets him cope tactfully with conflicts involving others. Social skills will play a major role during his school life, so, this early, encourage your child to speak with people around him. You can also lead by example. Let him see you relate with other people, bring him with you to gatherings where he, too, can meet and mingle with others.

Dr. Levine says parents and educators should know how a child's mental systems work, and should be aware of a child's personal strengths and weaknesses. This is what he refers to as a "neuro-developmental profile".

A child's profile is determined by factors including Genes, Family Life and Stress Level, Culture, Friends, Emotions, Educational Experience and Health. You, as a parent, are in the best position to influence many of these factors. By providing a good environment, lots of encouragement and the best care possible, you can help your child develop a positive profile that would, in turn, help him learn better and accelerate his development.

Proper nutrition, particularly during a child's first years of life, is crucial. Without it, brain development and cognitive functioning are severely impaired. This has an impact on a child's ability to learn.[2] That is why it helps to give your child Progress Gold when he reaches his first year. Progress Gold is the only growing-up milk that contains the Gold Brain and Body Formula. It has a breakthrough blend of 25 essential nutrients including Preformed DHA and AA that help accelerate brain and visual development. It also has Natural Mixed Carotenoids that help strengthen immunity, and Zinc that helps promote faster growth.

Help your child accelerate his development with the right nourishment. This, along with your best care, may help your child excel in school and bring out the inherent strengths of his mind's systems.

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Educating All Kinds of Minds
August 12-13, 2005
Every Nation Building (formerly VLI)
Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig

References:
[1] Levine, M. 2002. *A Mind at a Time.* Simon&Schuster, New York, Chapter 2, pp 27-50.
[2] www.ChildHungerThanksgivingFoodforThought.org
[3] Levine, M. 2001. *All Kinds of Minds.* Educators Publishing Service Inc., Cambridge, MA, Chapter 8, pp 231-275.

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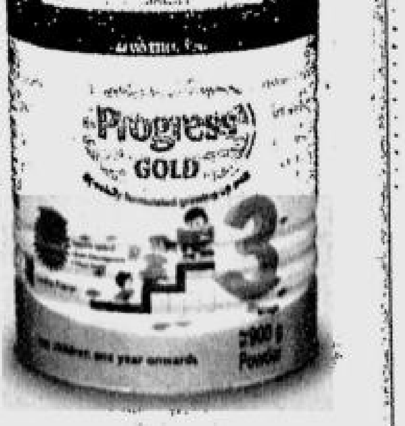

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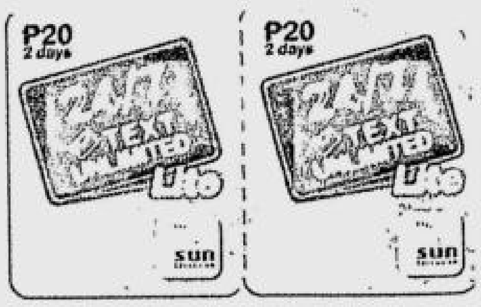

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RP is his home and art haven

Manila's vibrant art community made Peter Sutcliffe decide to spend the rest of his retirement years in the Philippines

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Chito Vecina

PETER Sutcliffe in his studio: "Most paintings are seen in artificial light, so it's not entirely logical to be painting in natural light."

HIS last post as deputy director for the International Labor Organization's Bureau of Public Information, a United Nations agency, took him to Geneva, Switzerland, where he already owned a house.

In a profession that took him to some 40 countries in over 40 years, Peter Sutcliffe was understandably in limbo for a while when, upon his retirement, he had to decide where on earth—literally—he would settle down.

"I didn't know where to go. Should I stay in Geneva or should I go elsewhere? I could live in Peru or Moscow. I could choose to live anywhere in the world," he says.

In the end, however, it was the lure of Manila's vibrant art community, not the fact that he is married to a Filipina, that made Sutcliffe decide to spend the rest of his retirement years in the Philippines. He says his wife, in fact, at first refused to set up house here.

As an artist, Sutcliffe recalls frequenting Manila during his placement in Bangkok, Thailand, in the '70s. He figured if he lived in the Philippines, local artists might just let him in, being the "very good-spirited people" that Filipinos are, and that interaction would better his skills as a painter.

"And they did," he says, crediting most of all his friendship with Filipino artist Renato Habulan as helping him transform his works.

Classical cultures

Selling their house in Geneva gave the Sutcliffe couple adequate funds to build a house at Ayala Land Inc.'s Westgrove Heights estate in Silang, Cavite.

The couple, even while in Geneva, began working closely with the architect Mae Heredia on improving the corner lot they purchased in 1999. After two years of regular e-mail consultations, they finally settled for a semi-colonial, semi-Mediterranean, semi-classic modern home.

"I'm very interested in the classical cultures of Greece and Rome, and I wanted something that reflected that," says Sutcliffe.

A voracious reader, the man of the

RP/D2

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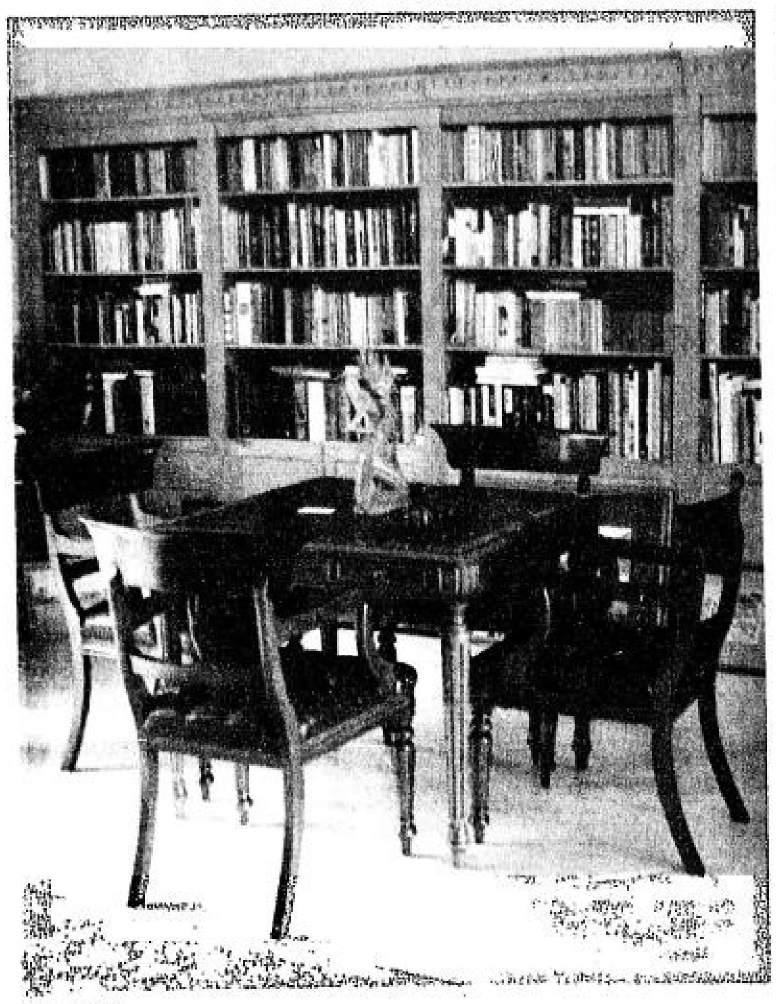
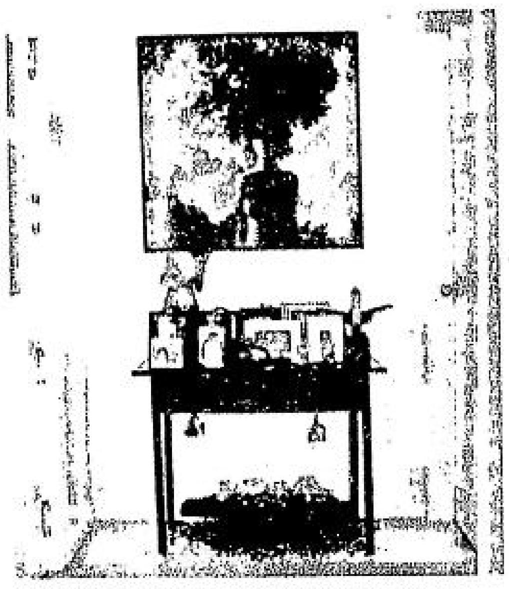
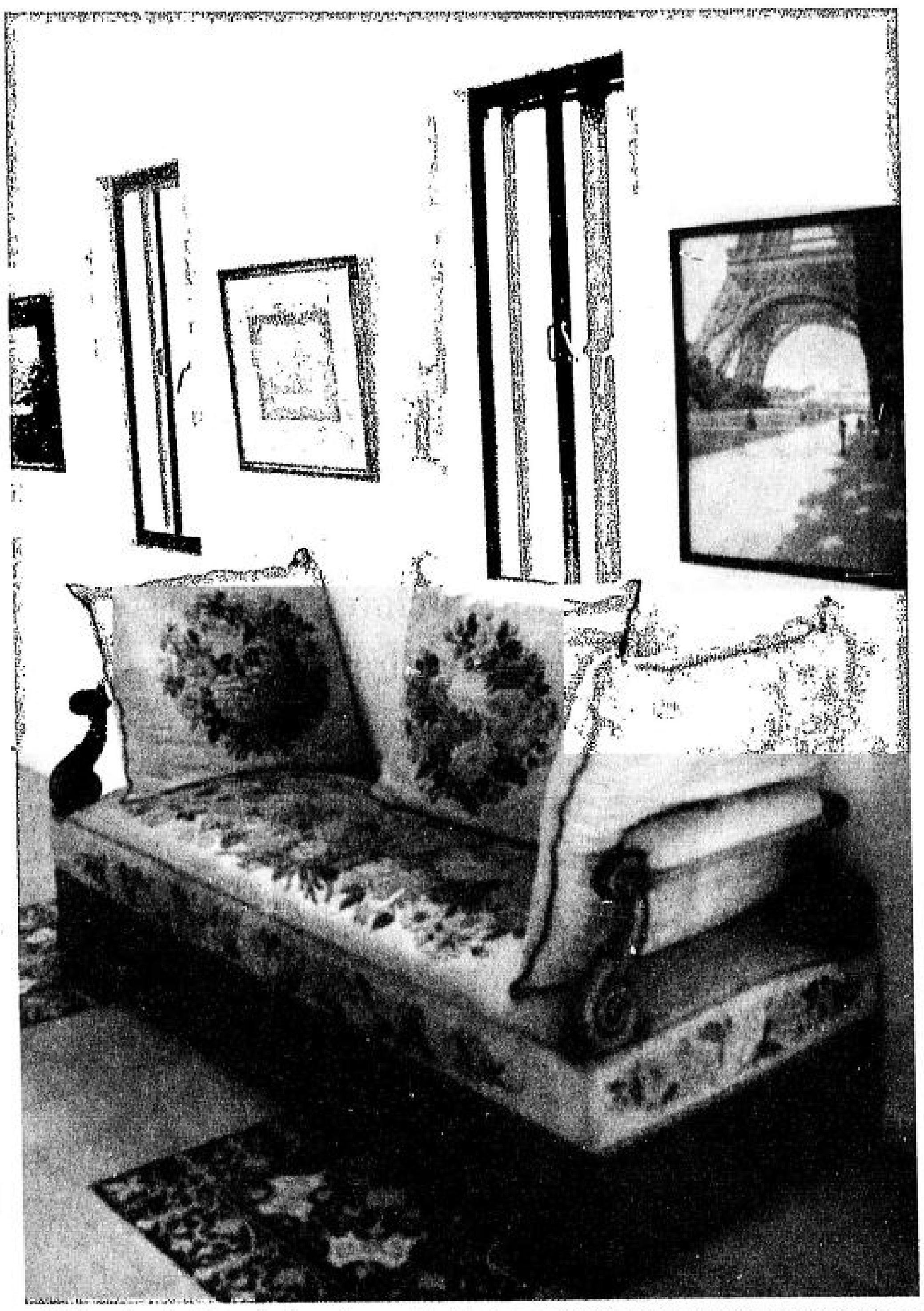


LIBRARY

TWO of Tito Roy's Japanese-inspired paintings are displayed by the window in the living room; window blinds are of natural Rami Avacar fiber, on Chinese hanger.



PASSAGEWAY. Oil painting by Thai artist Anant Panin; 18th-century King George III table, with family photos, two authentic terra-cotta oil lamps from Rome, large Nao terra-cotta figurine of the Muher al Vienta (Mother of the Wind) from Spain



THIS hand-embroidered, elegantly caned settee is a mid-19th-century antique acquired from a Swiss family in the Jura mountains near Neuchâtel.

RP is his home and art haven

From page D1

house required that it had ample space for his extensive collection of books, as well as a private office and a garden for his wife and a well-lighted studio for him.

The house, characterized by wide-open spaces that allow the cool rural breeze to liberally flow through it, has the typical tiled roof, modestly high ceilings, and long, vertical windows. The elevated walkway leads to a spacious entrance that complements the house's rear sliding glass doors, which peek into a pocket garden with a mini waterfall. This cross-ventilation is most useful during the sultry summer climate.

The reception area opens to the roomy, high-ceilinged living room adorned with a chandelier bought in Austria. If more space is needed to entertain guests, both rooms seamlessly connect to the sizeable library lined with wall-to-wall books and its own set of elegantly weathered leather couches on one side. The library directly leads toward the rear pocket garden, should the occasion call for natural elements to warm up the ambience.

"Westgrove, with its open sky, is a pleasant and lovely place to live in," Sutcliffe says.

Prized pieces

Various antiques collected from different corners of the globe—from ancient Constantinople to Venice and Austria—are scattered strategically all over. Among Sutcliffe's prized pieces is an Italian faux-marble table that stands on molded bronze legs, handmade with the use of the ancient scagliola technique, also known as "scag."

This technique, he says, requires that a wet plaster of Paris with dry pigments be worked into a dough then pressed into a mold, sanded, oiled and waxed to make its surface identical to natural marble. When the top slab is molded, patterns are then molded into it, and a fresh "scag" is pressed into them to form the multicolored decoration.

The intricately designed table is a tedious, highly expensive work of art, explains Sutcliffe, with decorative pieces of marble hand-cut to fit exactly into the patterns cut into the marble slab.

"I do have [a passion] for antiques. I can't afford them but I would like to spend a lot of money on them," he says.

He also has his various toy collections, such as aircraft models of various World War II machines in die-cast metal that are mementos of his childhood in England in the 1940s. There are, as well, toy soldiers in 19th-century Russian Imperial Army uniforms. Sutcliffe bought them in Russia just after the fall of the USSR.

And then there are the paintings sourced everywhere, now over 200 of them, including his own, hanging on the walls or leaning against them on the floor. Sutcliffe's first solo show, a traveling exhibit sponsored by the Ayala Group, recently opened at Glorietta in Makati before hitting Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu. Sutcliffe has also been appointed by Ayala Land as the artist-in-residence of the Ayala Westgrove Heights.

"Why do I paint? Because I can't help it. And for what purpose? To increase, if not the gift be mine, the sum total of human happiness," he says.

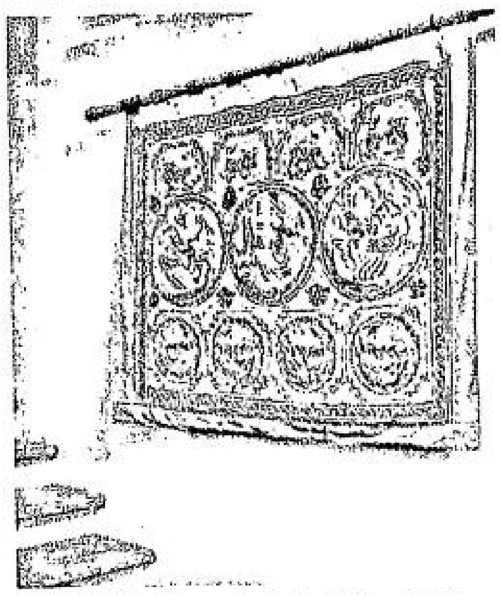
A romantic impressionist, Sutcliffe paints plein-air, with a palate subdued like the atmospheric landscapes of northern Europe. The artworks are, like the man himself, very English.

Today he devotes himself to his art, doing it and teaching it to children and adults. And he says he couldn't have chosen a better home for himself than the Philippines.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph.

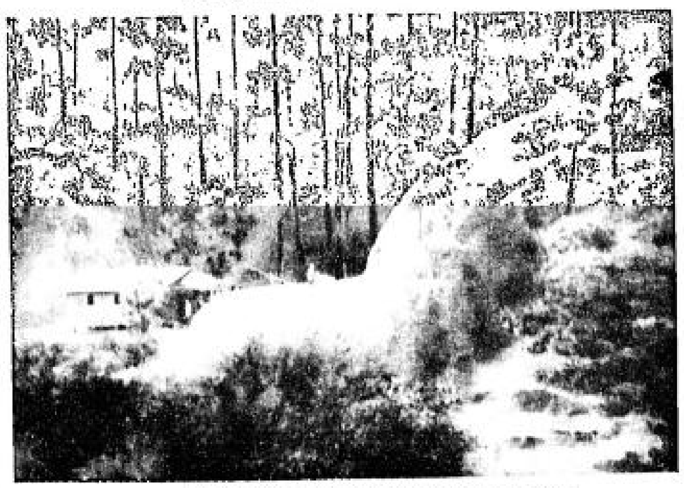
LIVING ROOM. Italian faux marble (center); antique Kilim cushions and rug from Turkey; mid-19th-century solid elmwood chest from Korea which serves as the couple's booze cabinet (left)

CHILDHOOD mementos of 1940s England: World War II aircraft models in die-cast metal



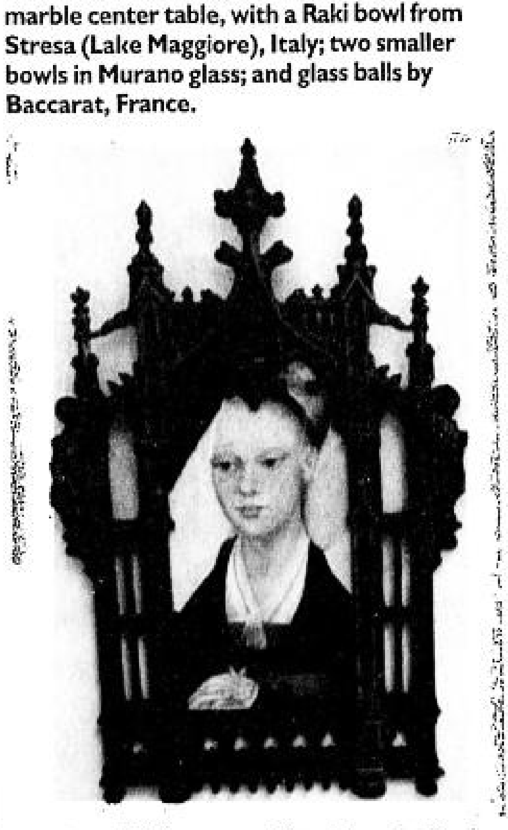
MODERN wall hanging in traditional Thai design on bamboo rail

SCAGLIOLA technique on Italian faux-marble center table, with a Raki bowl from Stresa (Lake Maggiore), Italy; two smaller bowls in Murano glass; and glass balls by Baccarat, France.

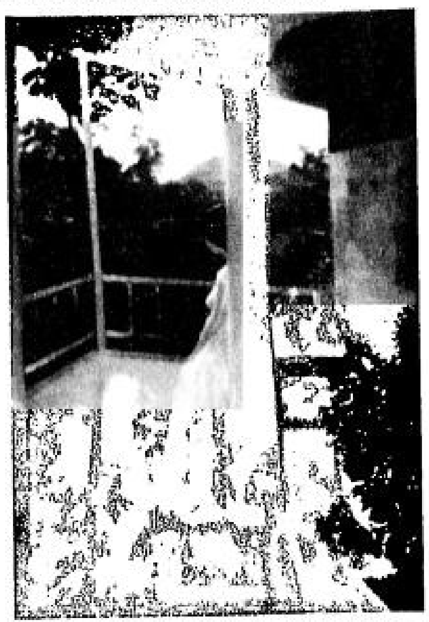


MOUNTAIN landscapes are among Sutcliffe's favorite visual themes.

SUTCLIFFE wanted a house that would mirror his love for classical cultures.



REPRO of 15th-century Flemish artist Rogier van der Weyden's "Portrait of a Lady" by Sutcliffe, in antique Spanish silver frame



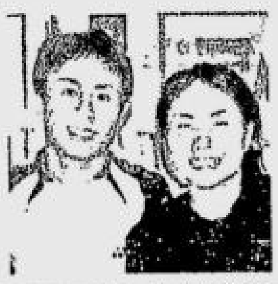
"TERRIFIC composition plays a significant role in my paintings," says Sutcliffe.

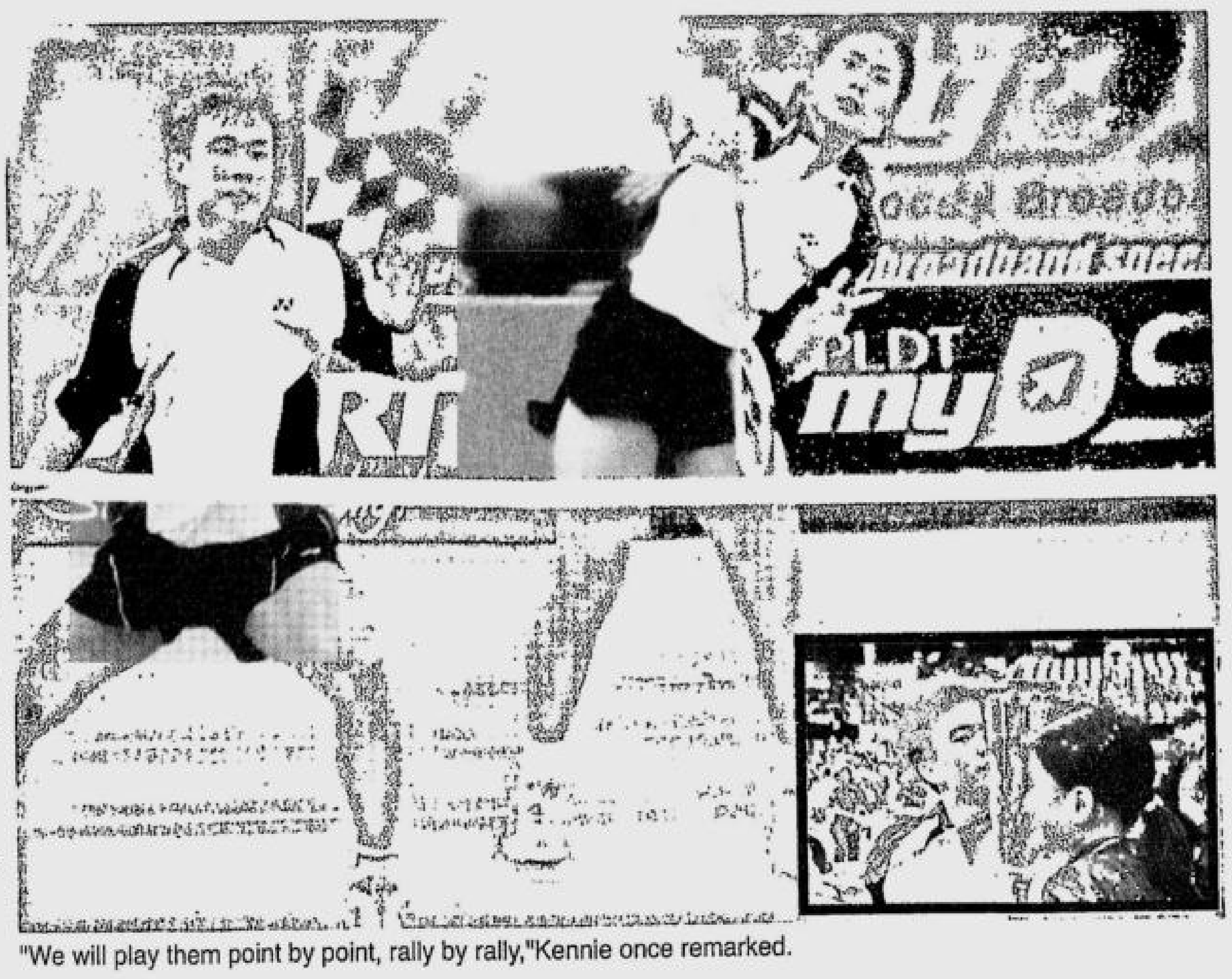
It was an expectedly warm welcome during the opening ceremonies. Little did we know of the near-shocker that was to ensue.

THE POWER OF TWO

Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion Share Stories on the MVP Cup

In the end, Asia prevailed.





"We will play them point by point, rally by rally,"Kennie once remarked.

They couldn't believe it. When the Philsports Arena crowd were shouting their hearts out and cheering every shot or rally from the Filipino mixed doubles team of Kennevic and Kennie Asuncion, they experienced something they've never gone through before. This was a homecourt advantage the Asuncions had only dreamed of, and the response was incredible. It had pushed them to matchpoint versus England's Nathan Robertson and Gail Emms, the world's number one mixed doubles tandem. On the final day of the recently concluded MVP Cup, the Filipinos finally had their turn to shine.

> "After this good showing, gaganahan ang ibang mga players. If we can do it, lahat tayo puwede. Pero through hard work dapat.
>
> ---*Kennie Asuncion*

Facing the best team in the world, you would think that the Asuncion siblings would be intimidated. 25-year old Kennevic stated that, "Our feelings were more excitement than anything else. Just being in the MVP Cup was such an honor for us, and since it was our hometown, we didn't want to embarrass ourselves." Vic, as he is known to his friends, revealed that he and his sister had played against Robertson and Emms before when they were beaten 15-7, 15-7. "We just wanted to get to eight points in the first set. Laban lang!"

The Shocker

"Then we won the first game, 15-12, and the crowd at the Philsports Arena got us more pumped up," he related. They would taste match point before losing the second game 14-17, and the third 1-15. Nelson Asuncion, their father and coach had earlier predicted that the two would "shock the world". By coming so close to beating the world number 1's, indeed they had.

28-year old Kennie echoed her younger brother's sentiments, saying that "It was really so awesome. I was so overwhelmed by the people's support." The Asuncions are still on an emotional high. It matters little to them that Robertson and Emms eventually took the match, what matters is that badminton has never been more visible in the Philippines. "After this good showing, gaganahan ang ibang mga players," Kennie believes. "If we can do it, lahat tayo puwede. Pero through hard work dapat." Vic added that "We tried to prove to Filipinos that we can do it. We've been training for so long. Some people think we only started playing badminton last year, but we've been doing this for a long time already. Our dad is our coach kasi so he's been preparing us for this."

In Kennie's opinion, the MVP Cup was "the best I've ever felt in international competition as a whole. I mean, from the crowd to the game, for us to actually play that way... I still feel so happy about it!" Next up for the dynamic duo is the World Championships to be held in Los Angeles this August. From there, the Southeast Asian Games are coming to Manila in late November and another opportunity for the siblings to represent the Philippines.

See You At The Next MVP Cup

This early, the Asuncions are already looking forward to the next MVP Cup. "The other players (from Europe and Asia) all want to be invited back," Kennevic mentions. "Di raw sila naka-ikot this time eh, they really want to see the Philippines." Since the tournament is by invitation only, both of them are hoping that their heroic showing will earn them another shot at the cup. "The whole program was so perfect," said Kennie, going on to say that "The other players like Nathan Robertson said that this was the best crowd they've ever played in front of and they're all looking forward to next year." With the overwhelming positive responses surrounding the MVP Cup, and a stellar showing from the Asuncion duo, we can only hope next year's edition lives up to that success.

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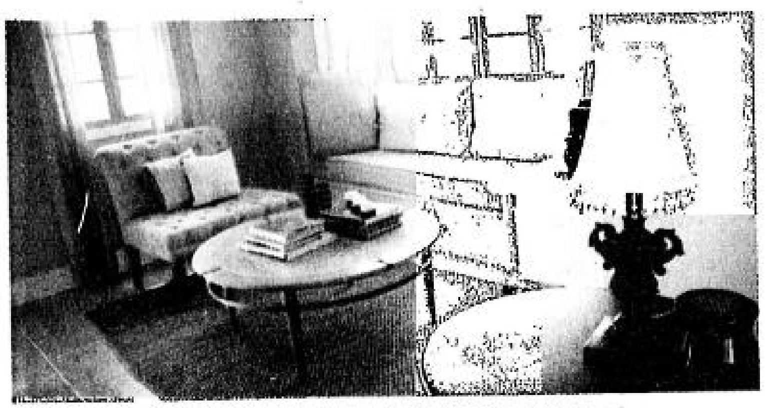
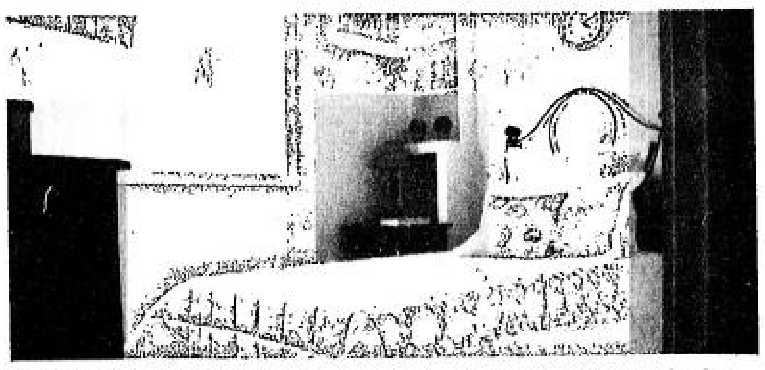
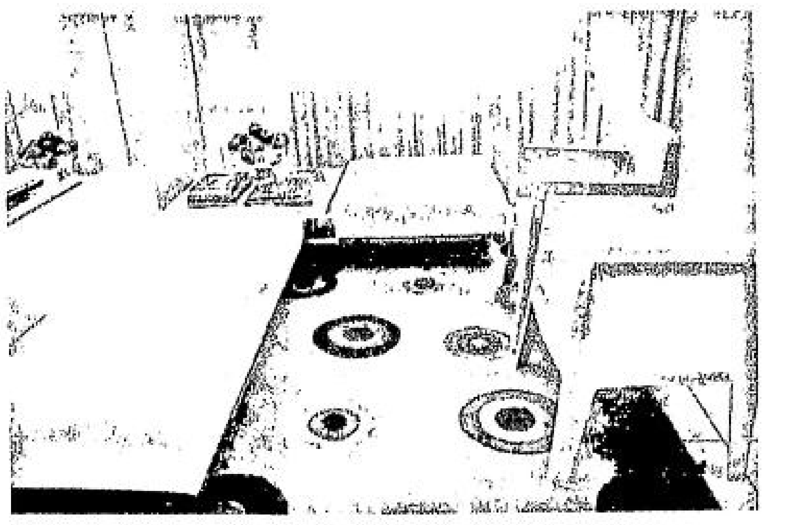


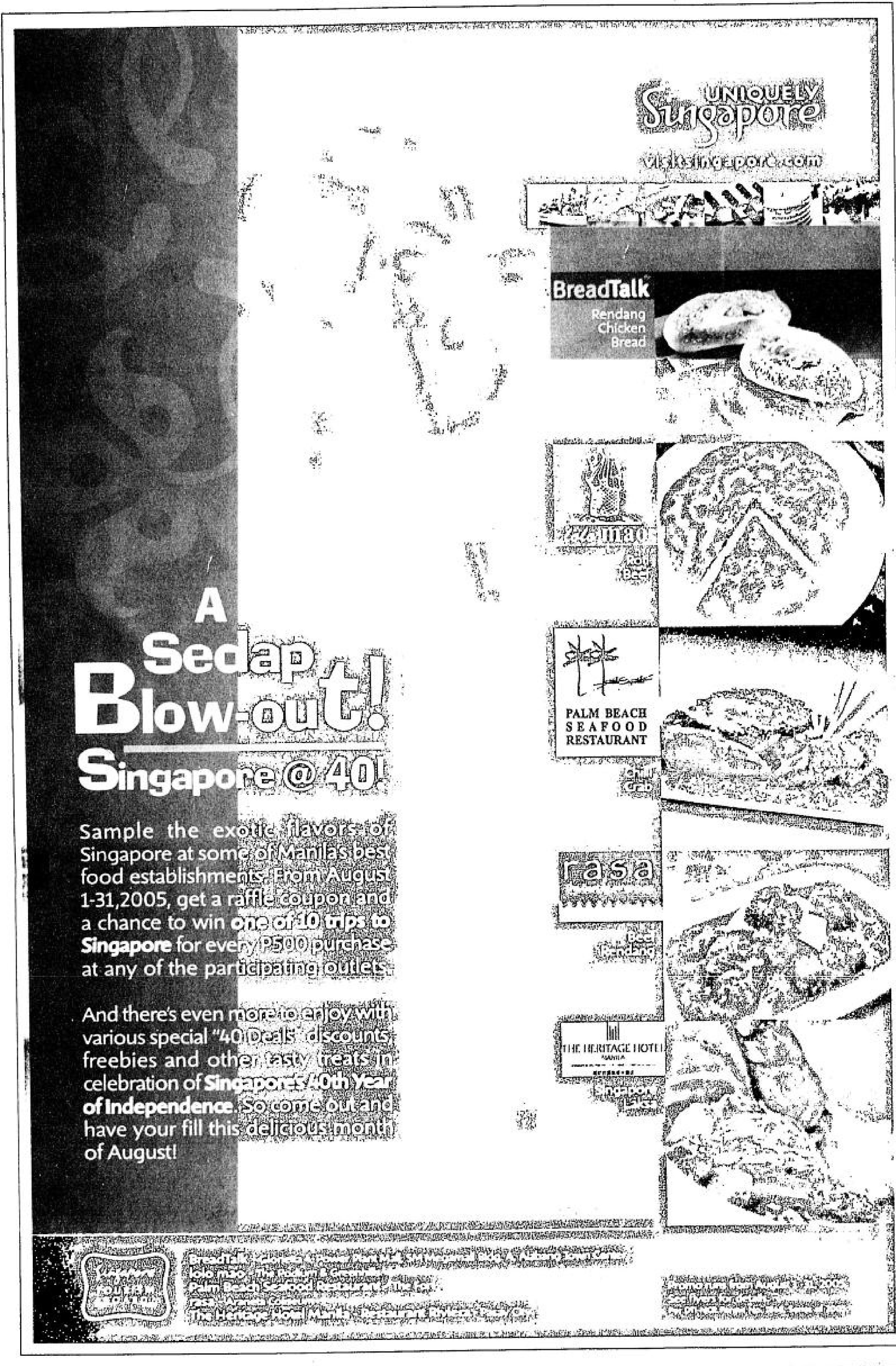
SOFT colors and plush pillows make the living room inviting.



THIS BEDROOM in the Cottonwood Maple Model Unit can also be converted into a hobby room, a guest room, even a home office.



BRIGHT primary colors and whimsical shapes give the living room joie de vivre.



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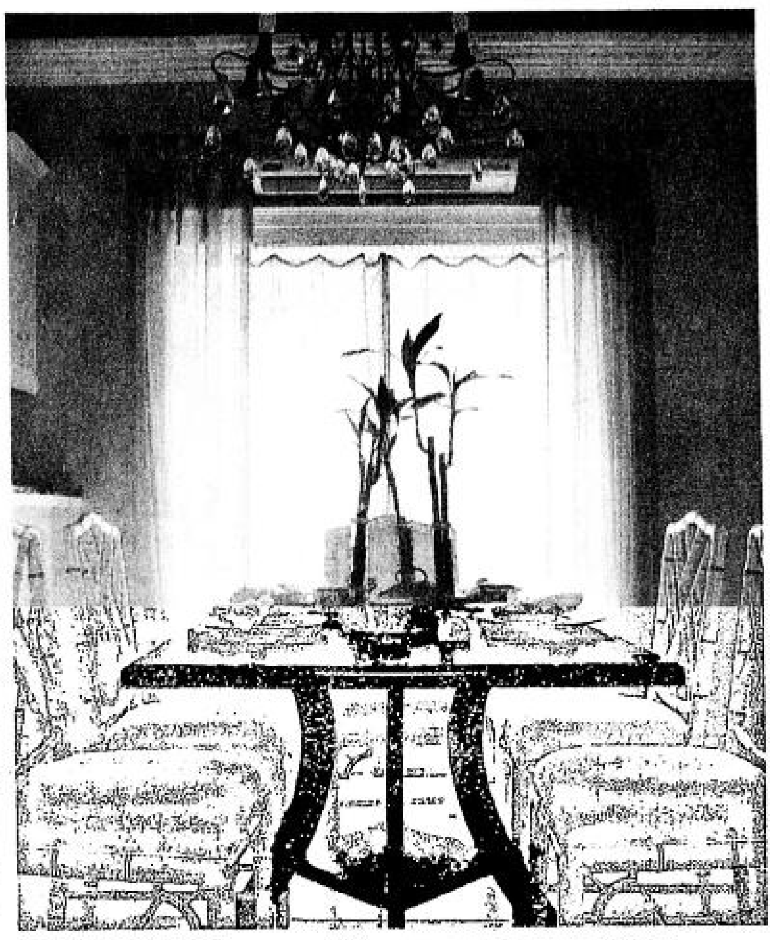
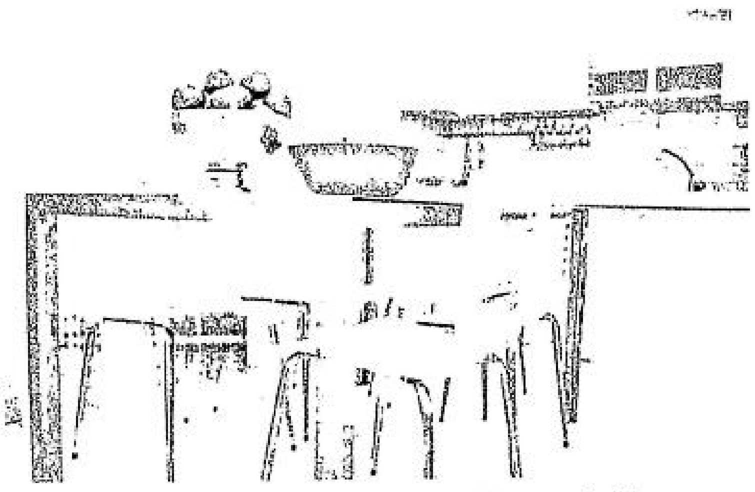


AN ELEGANT dining area adds to your gustatory experience.



WHITE can make an area look brighter and bigger, as in this kitchen/dining room of the Sigourney model unit.

How to turn a pre-built house into a home

MOVING into a new house is always an exciting event. It is a place to finally call your own, and it's more or less like a blank canvass on which you can express yourself.

Maybe it will start with the color of the paint you choose to put on your walls, and the furniture you bring in, the house will start feeling like your own. The floor space is economical in scale, but the rooms appear much bigger because of the windows, and you can open the room up further with light colors, and small- to medium-size scale furniture. One rule of thumb from an interior designer: Don't use large prints or overscale furniture in small spaces.

The rooms can be multipurpose—the living room can double as the entertainment center; the kitchen, a cozy breakfast nook; the den becomes the children's playroom and family room. Make the most of every room.

To further add a personal touch in your home, bring in picture frames with photos of your family and loved ones which can be placed on tables, shelves and hung on the walls, mix in some interesting knickknacks and souvenirs you picked up along the way, bring your personality in the fixtures you choose, and even the throw pillows.

Cottonwoods over in Antipolo, families are already moving into the houses to start making them their own home. Cottonwoods has 12 model houses. The houses are American-inspired; some with a front porch in front; all with a *lanai* in the back.

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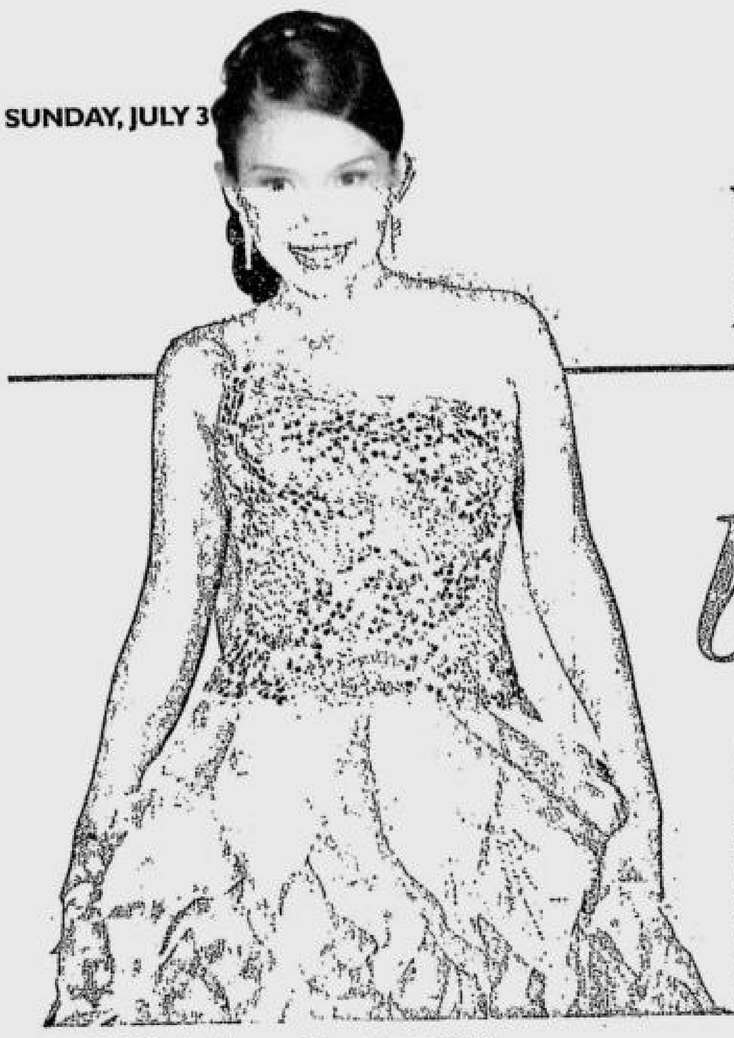
Baddeo's big *bridal fair*



DONNA Kristine Argana Shaw, the perfect debutante, in a monochromatic blue snakeskin lace and petal skirt in chiffon

COME Aug. 13, at The Rockwell Tent in Makati City, Eddie Baddeo will once again showcase his exquisite bridal creations in a gala show dubbed as "The Bridal Fete." In celebration of his 19 years in fashion, the maverick designer will present a 19-piece collection for the bride and her wedding entourage.

Produced by Elmer and Michelle Francisco of EMF Organization and Events Corp., "The Bridal Fete" will also have a special one-of-a kind exhibit and fair. Raymond Villanueva will handle concept and direction.

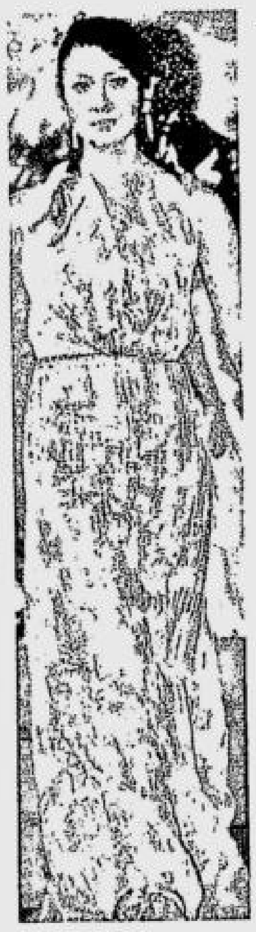
Every girl's wish to become a princess for a night may also be realized when she wears an Eddie Baddeo gown to her debut party. This once-in-a-lifetime feeling was recently experienced by real-life debutantes when they walked the runaway at the Centennial Hall Ballroom of Manila Hotel in Baddeo's regal finery.

For inquiries about "The Bridal Fete," call 8747719, 0917-8861050, 3715843 or 3719384, or e-mail ebfrancisco@zpdee.net.

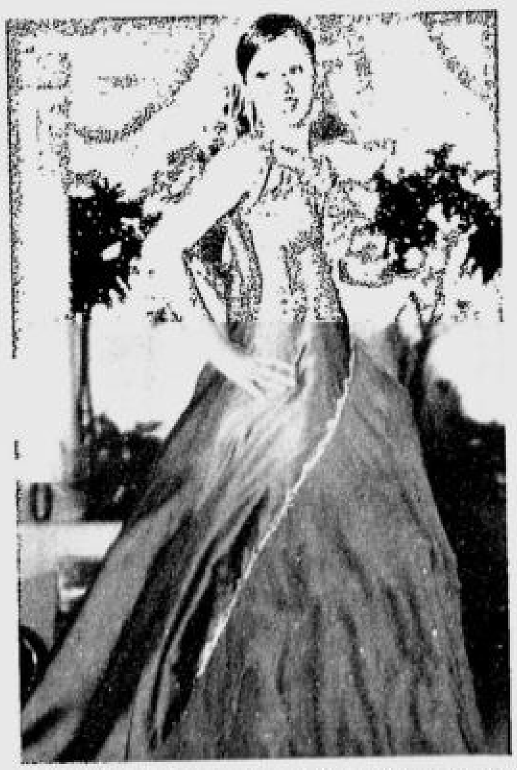
KAT-KAT Lim Napoles in eggyolk draped-bodice debutante gown with multilayered and overlapping skirt. Ostrich feathers in an off-shoulder neckline add a feminine touch.

CAROLINE Marquez Queroga as a radiant debutante, wearing a celadon draped top and Swiss-lace skirt

MICHELLE David Riego sparkles in a chartreuse mesh-net ensemble.



KRISTEL Moreno shimmers in a haltered metallic gown.



DEBUTANTE Renée Rose Martinez Lipana in emerald-green Thai silk and one-sided chiffon skirt trimmed with Swarovskis

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A 'balikbayan' wedding

THE NEWLYWEDS with the groom's family: Jimmy Cabangis, Oscar Cabangis, Terry Cabangis, Carol Cabangis, mother Nita Cabangis, Merlie Coniendo, Elecito Coniendo, Paolo Manlulu, Rio Manlulu and Chloe Manlulu

FILIPINO-BORN Ener A. Cabangis of the Hong Kong Shanghai Bank in California married recently Gwen Ypon, a US-based Filipina florist, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Pasay City.

The groom is the uncle of Filipino-American Hollywood actress Giovannie Pico.

Reception was held at the Peninsula Hotel's Rigodon Ballroom in Makati City.

Florist Serge Igonia, known for his innovative uses of *sampaguita*, did the flower arrangements for the church and reception hall with lilium, cymbidium, roses, dendrobiums, peonies and *sampaguita* garlands, among others, accented with hanging tea-light candles.

Igonia was the bride's classmate in a flower arrangement course conducted by Ikebana professor Serapion Metilla.

Wedding motif was pink and black.

Clothes for the entourage were done by US-based shops: Eve of Milady for the bride's gown, Tommy Hilfiger for the groom's tuxedo, and David's Bridal for the rest of the wedding party.

FLORIST Serge Igonia did this canopy of dendrobium orchids and *sampaguita* garlands for the event.

Break the speed limit with SkyDSL Speed-on-Demand

All DSL service packages in the market offer specific broadband speeds measured in kilobytes per second or kbps which also determines the monthly charge that you need to pay.

When determining the perfect package to fit your Internet surfing needs, it becomes a question of which speed fits your budget.

But what if you get a DSL service that lets you pay the same monthly rate but lets you connect to the Internet at much higher broadband speeds?

SkyDSL, one of the most innovative DSL providers in the market today, now offers a new feature for your DSL connection that would literally let you break the speed limit when you need it! This is another first from SkyDSL.

Introducing SkyDSL Speed-on-Demand, a breakthrough DSL service that lets you surf the Internet at broadband speeds beyond your subscribed bandwidth without any extra charge.

Just log on from 12 Midnight to 8AM with any of the SkyDSL packages and experience downloading and surfing that's up to 2x faster.

For example, if you are on the SkyDSL 384 plan, you can surf to up to 640 kbps, while if you are on SkyDSL 896 kbps, you can actually experience surfing speeds of up to 1.2 mbps!

And to make DSL service more accessible, SkyDSL now offers the lowest rate at P899 per month for a 192 kbps plan. But with Speed-on-Demand, you can surf up to 384 kbps during the prescribed period.

Plus, for a one-time activation fee of only P500, SkyDSL subscribers also get unlimited Wi-Fi access in over 180 Wi-Fi hotspots nationwide. The Wi-Fi service is powered by Airborne Access, the leading WiFi provider in the country today.

SkyDSL is also throwing in free one-month subscription or free installation into the new offers.

So sign up with SkyDSL today to experience Speed-on-Demand and break the Internet surfing speed limit!

For more inquiries on the SkyDSL offers, interested customers may call 449-3118 or 449-3293 or they can visit www.skydsl.com.ph.

SkyDSL is available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon and Valenzuela.

ADVT

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Introducing SkyDSL "Speed-on-Demand" (SOD). The breakthrough DSL service that allows you to go beyond your Subscribed Speed! Another first from SkyDSL.

For as low as P899, you can boost your Internet Speed from 192 kbps to 384 kbps! Powered by SKYInternet, SkyDSL SOD gives you the flexibility of increasing your speed by up to 2x faster! Go beyond your speed limit from 12MN to 8AM, unlimited everyday*! Check out our affordable packages:

Details	SkyDSL 192 kbps	SkyDSL 384 kbps	SkyDSL 896 kbps
Subscribed Speed	192 kbps	384 kbps	896 kbps
Monthly Fee (Standalone)	P899	P1,699	P2,699
Speed due to SkyDSL "Speed-on-demand"	384 kbps	640 kbps	1.2 mbps
Promo on top of free "Speed-on-Demand"	Free one month subscription	With Existing BayanTel line: Free one month subscription Without BayanTel line: Waived installation fee	With Existing BayanTel line: Free one month subscription Without BayanTel line: Waived installation fee

Free unlimited Wi-Fi access in over 180 hotspots nationwide for only P500 one-time activation fee
(Wi-Fi is free until July 24, 2005)

Subscribe to any SkyDSL package during the promo period and get the SOD feature and unlimited Wi-Fi access for FREE! Promo period until Oct 24, 2005. SkyDSL is available in selected areas in Quezon City, Manila, Malabon, and Valenzuela.

Call our sales hotlines: 449-3293, 449-3118, visit our website at www.skydsl.com.ph or see flyers for details.

*SkyDSL SOD is available starting Aug 1, 2005. Free 3 months SOD feature to those who will subscribe until Oct. 24, 2005.

Wi-Fi service is powered by: airborne access

SKY
Extremely fast in every way!

KAREN Torres, Lucy Torres Gomez and daughter Juliana, Bro. Chito Bertol and wife Sis. Tez Bertol, Sis. Julie Torres and husband Bro. Manoling Torres with Padre Pio statues

Pilgrimage of Padre Pio devotees

THE PHILIPPINE Center for St. Pio of Pietreleina Inc. is organizing a pilgrimage to San Giovanni, Rotondo, Italy, and several holy places in France, Monaco, Spain and Portugal November 3-24.

The tour includes the miracle sites of Padre Pio, Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Francis of Assisi, Our Lady of Fatima and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. One of the highlights of the pilgrimage is the Papal Blessing at the grounds of St. Peter's Square, Vatican City.

Covered by the pilgrimage cost are breakfast and dinner, as well as accommodation in first-class hotels. Fr. Arnold M. Aurillo, parish priest of Ipil, Ormoc, Leyte, is joining the pilgrimage. Other members are devotees of Santo Pio: Chito and Tez Bertol, and Manoling and Julie Torres.

Call Tez Bertol, tour coordinator, at 0921-3431788, or Anna of Adams Express Travel at 5211651, 5211638 or 5211698.

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THE LATE Cardinal Sin and Clara O. Corpus open the 40th anniversary exhibit of the MBMG. With them are Marylou Albert and two visiting nuns from Marymount College in New York.

Exhibit marks Mother Butler's golden jubilee

THE MOTHER Butler Mission Guilds (MBMG) of the Philippines will celebrate its golden jubilee with an exhibit of church vestments, fine linen and altar equipment on Aug. 27 (3:30-10 p.m.) and 28 (9 a.m.-10 p.m.) at the Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall.

The MBMG was founded by Marion Dolan, an alumna of Marymount College in New York City, in honor of Mother Marie Joseph Butler, who founded the school and was a religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary.

Mother Butler had a deep appreciation of the needs of missionaries all over the world. She devoted herself, and inspired others, to helping meet these needs by sewing church vestments and fine linen and donating sacred vessels used in celebrating the Holy Eucharist.

The MBMG was founded in the Philippines by Clara O. Corpus in 1955, after a visit to Marymount College where she met Dolan. She gathered six of her friends and founded the first unit of the MBMG.

The quiet work and the low-key stance of the organization, a reflection of Corpus' personality, attracted young wives and mothers who wanted to serve the Church and the poor in an apostolate that would not conflict with their duties as homemakers.

The MBMG now has chapters in 28 provinces and ecclesiastical territories, with 25 units in Metro Manila alone.

In the past 50 years, the MBMG served the church with zeal and dedication, knowing that, ultimately, they also gave glory to God.

THE LATE Clara O. Corpus, founder of the Mother Butler Mission Guilds (MBMG) in the Philippines, addresses the members during an assembly.

EXHIBIT of vestments and altar equipment is held yearly, this one in Cebu City, with Cora Lopa, Thelma Gana and Marivic Concepcion.

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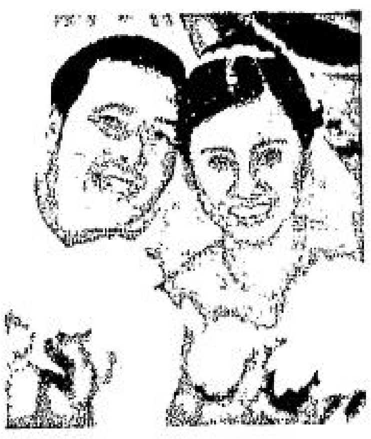
Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0677 series of 2005. Promo period is from July 15 until supplies last. Promo is available in leading supermarkets.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

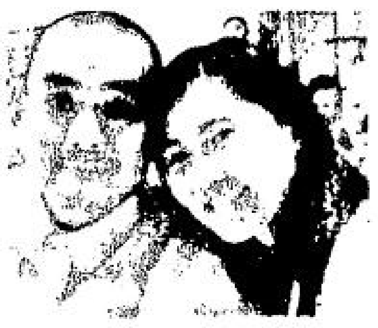


RICO-DE LEON

Therese G. de Leon, daughter of **Andrew** and **Marites de Leon,** exchanged vows recently with **Emmanuel C. Rico,** son of **Buenaventura** and **Perfecta Rico,** at the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish. Reception followed at Mt. Carmel Parish Reception Hall.

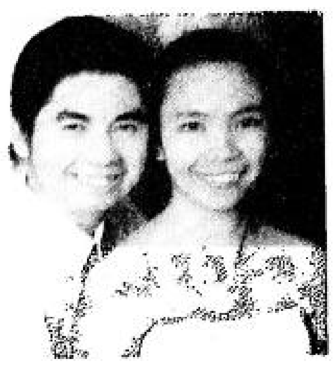
DE CASTRO-FERNANDEZ

Maricon Reya Fernandez, daughter of **Rey** and **Marilou Fernandez,** will wed **Angelo de Castro,** son of **Miguel** and **Terry de Castro,** on Aug. 6 at the St. Joseph Parish Church in Mapandan, Pangasinan. Reception will be held at the Justine Hall, Leisure Coast Resort, Bonuan, Binloc, Dagupan City.



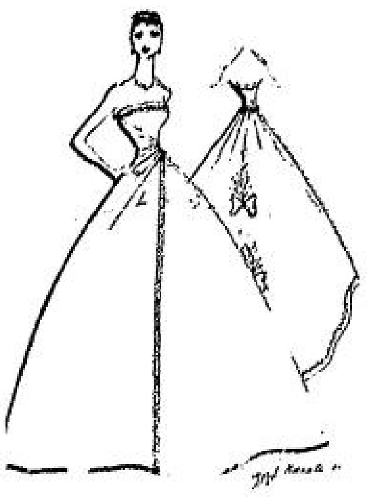
CHY-TAN

Joseph Robert Gayatin Chy, son of **Marshal Sr.** and **Vilma Chy,** will exchange wedding vows with **Viah Monette Oppus Tan,** eldest daughter of **Cesar** and **Vivian Tan,** on Aug. 13, 4 p.m., at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine in New Manila, Quezon City. Reception will be held at the Mount Carmel Reception Hall.



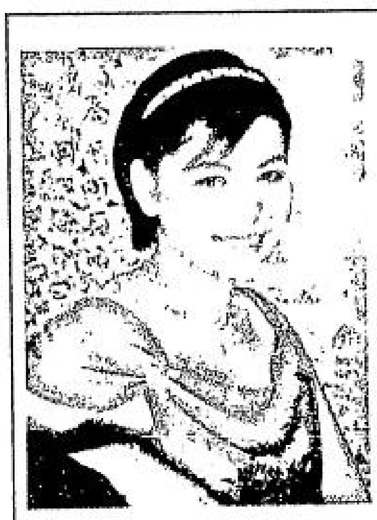
ROSAL-GARCIA

Roy Jerwin B. Rosal, son of **Milagros Rosal,** wed **Zara Garcia,** daughter of engineer **Jose Garcia** and **Irma Garcia,** on July 30 at Santuario del Santo Cristo Parish, San Juan, Metro Manila. Reception followed at Patio Ibarra, Quezon City. The bride wore a gown by Emily Sy of Esy Creations.



MONTAOS-SALVADOR

Dr. **Marco Christopher G. Montaos,** son of Dr. **Fortunato** and **Azucena Montaos,** married recently Dr. **Alpha A. Salvador,** youngest daughter of Dr. **Ruben** and **Marina Salvador,** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Quezon City. The bride wore a white duchess satin tube-topped bouffant gown with detachable chapel train, decorated with assorted glass cut beads and pearls and powder pink crystals by **Jojo Manalo.**



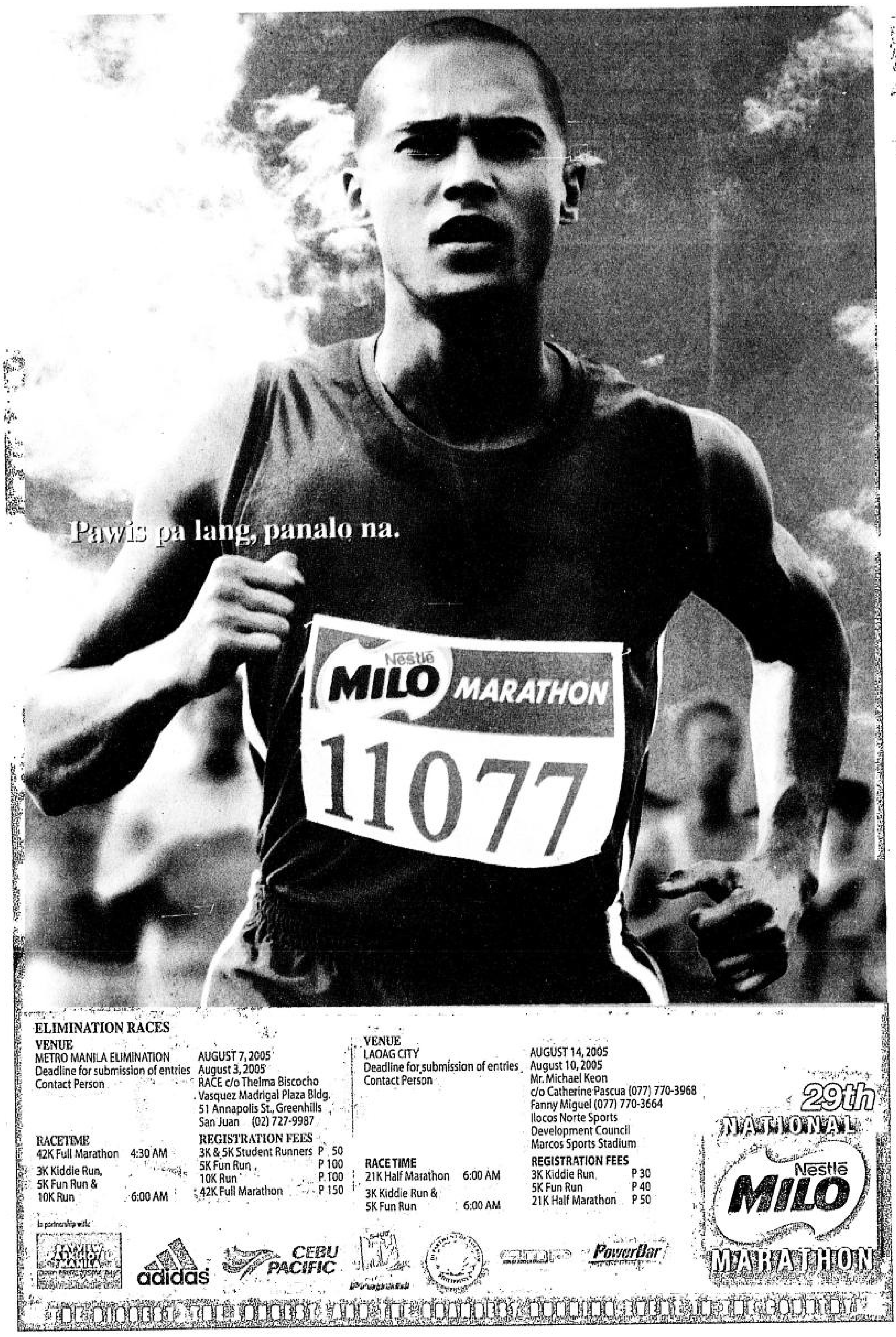
CAMACHO DEBUT

Franchette Perez Camacho, daughter of **Francisco** and **Barbara Camacho,** will celebrate her 18th birthday on Aug. 27 at Windmills and Rainforest, 60 Scout Borromeo, South Triangle, Quezon City.

The debutante is a sophomore hotel and restaurant management student at University of Santo Tomas.

HIDALGO DEBUT

Vanessa Marie Hidalgo celebrated her debut at Kamayan-Saisaki Restaurant at Ayala Town Center recently. She is the daughter of **Violeta B. Hidalgo** and the late **Steve Y. Hidalgo.** The venue was decorated to look like a garden and the debutante released butterflies for her late father. The debutante is a MassCom student at the Assumption College in Makati. Following the butterfly theme, **Danilo Franco** did a pomelo pink iridescent silk gown for the celebrator.



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VENUE
METRO MANILA ELIMINATION — AUGUST 7, 2005
Deadline for submission of entries — August 3, 2005
Contact Person — RACE c/o Thelma Biscocho, Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg., 51 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan (02) 727-9987

RACETIME
42K Full Marathon 4:30 AM
3K Kiddie Run, 5K Fun Run & 10K Run 6:00 AM

REGISTRATION FEES
3K & 5K Student Runners P 50
5K Fun Run P 100
10K Run P 100
42K Full Marathon P 150

VENUE
LAOAG CITY — AUGUST 14, 2005
Deadline for submission of entries — August 10, 2005
Contact Person — Mr. Michael Keon, c/o Catherine Pascua (077) 770-3968, Fanny Miguel (077) 770-3664, Ilocos Norte Sports Development Council, Marcos Sports Stadium

RACE TIME
21K Half Marathon 6:00 AM
3K Kiddie Run & 5K Fun Run 6:00 AM

REGISTRATION FEES
3K Kiddie Run P 30
5K Fun Run P 40
21K Half Marathon P 50

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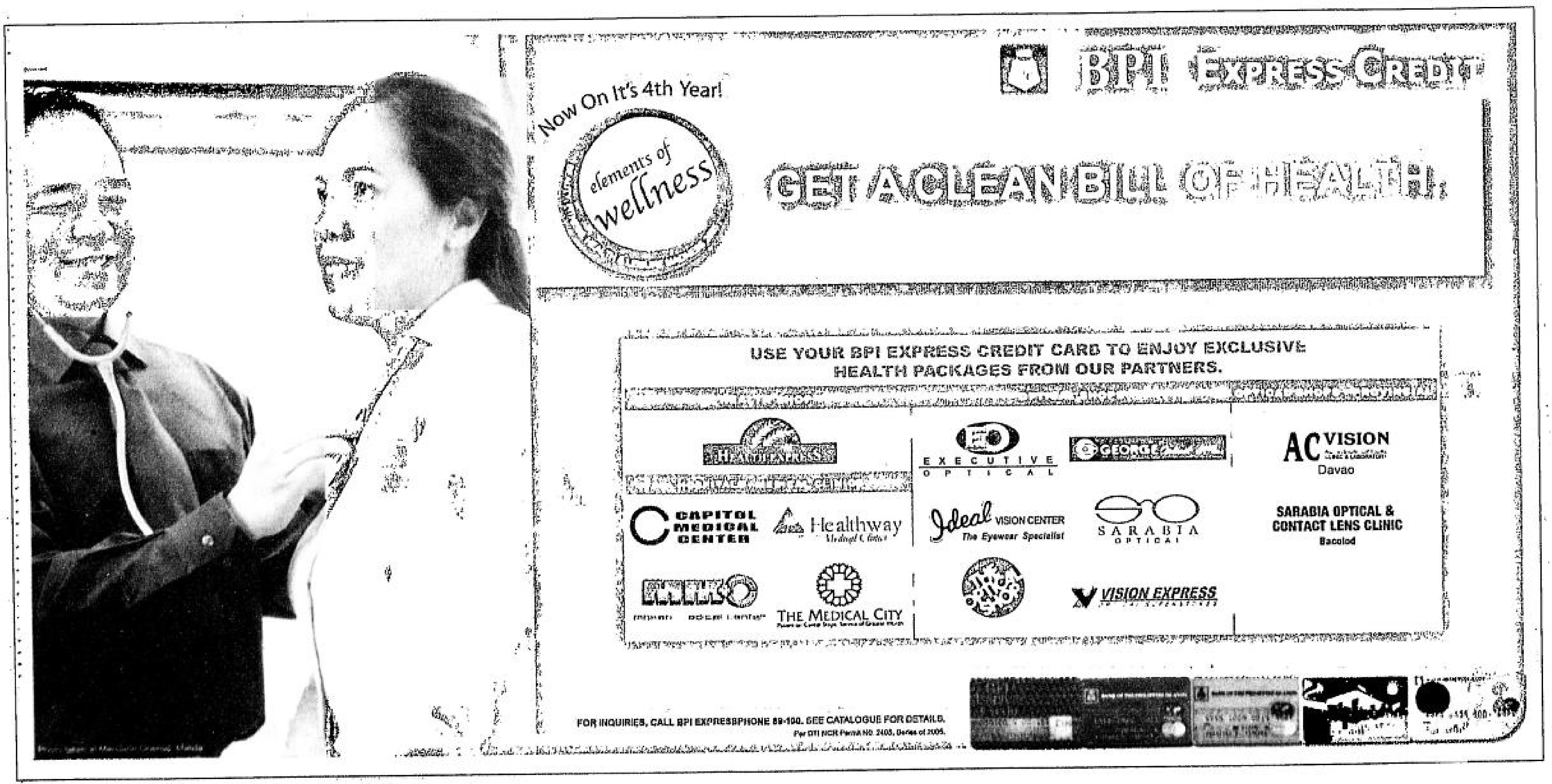

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FALL/WINTER 2005 must-have bag: Gucci's La Pelle Guccisima

Beckham shaves armpits; GMA revives the Maria Clara

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-HAVE bag—Gucci La Pelle Guccisima. Now that the fall-winter collection 2005 is filling the shops' shelves and fashion magazines, new shapes, sizes and materials are competing for one's attention.

So far, what has stood out is Gucci's latest

BECKHAM/ F4

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ALLIANCE Française de Manille's Markus Rucksduhl, French embassy's counsellor for cooperation and cultural affairs François Blamont, and Ateneo School of Humanities dean Leovino Garcia

TOGO honorary consul Evie Costa, French Police attaché Jean-Pierre Gauthier, Monaco honorary consul Fortune Ledesma and French Consul Monique Diebold-Pacetti

ANNA Sia, Becky Garcia, Carla Sibal and Lulu Tan-Gan

CAPT. Michel Melin (center) with Mariana Godfrey, Maria Elena Armitage, Mme. Rosa Melin and Mme. MG (Embassy of Singapore)

WARM-UP exercises before striptease class

IN HIGH spirits: Anita Yao Siy, Emily Siy, Irene Uy, Jacqueline Ng and Vay Ng

ENGAGED to be married, Chot Wong and Emily Siy

LWT guest Lea Salonga-Chien and mom Ligaya Salonga

TANGHALANG Pilipino Board: Jacinto Gavino, Tito Tesoro, Malu Gam Yvette Makayan, Joy Soler de Castro, Tonyboy Cojuangco, me, Herbie Butch Dalisay

STRIPTEASE instructor Rissa Colmenares

COZY couple Bettina Go and Glen Carberry

BIRTHDAY girl Rosan Cruz and Gai Olivares

SEXY ladies Liana Romulo and Maggie Go

SURPRISE party guests pose after striptease lessons.

Stripteasing my wa

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

AMONG the many junk e-mails I receive, there are the occasional funny and enlightening ones. One recent letter, from my high school friend **Jojo Ongsiako**, was all about how we perceive aging. According to **George Carlin**'s "Views on Aging," the only time we are eager to be older is when we are kids. Kids think of their age in fractions like 4½, going on 5. We will never proudly say we are 35½, pushing 40.

We become 21, we turn 30, we push 40 and before we know it, we're 50. Still further on, we make it to 60 and then we hit 70. I figure I am now in the middle of that timeline, so I should really venture into all activities physically possible for me before I begin needing a permanent nurse to assist me as I walk the aisles of the latest malls.

I should really venture into all activities physically possible for me before I begin needing a nurse to assist me as I walk the aisles in the newest malls

Striptease

Speaking of "all activities physically possible," I recently tried a Striptease session, and now I am totally hooked. This class may sound kinky and not a workout at all, but my friends who have been attending regularly have lost teenie-weenie inches around their waistline and have toned their abs. The undulations going up and down are also amazing for their thighs, and to complete the muscle toning, their legs look leaner, too.

For the birthday of my Wednesday-night-novena and scuba diving buddy **Rosan Cruz**, our yoga group surprised her with a dinner at my house topped off with a Striptease exhibition class by **Rissa Colmenares** (for lessons, call 0916-7858330). Transforming my all-purpose party room into a Parisian salon was easy with my numerous boa feathers and silk fabrics. Unfortunately, I was unable to install a striptease pole on such short notice. For my costume, since nothing sexy still fitted, I wore clothes with elastic waistbands and a stretch top.

Rissa had the complete look: micro-mini patent leather shorts and a fire-engine-red bra top, fish net tank top, shredded leather belt and knee-high, platform patent boots. I've already gotten lists of suppliers from her, so I would have the proper outfits to really get into the mood of the sessions.

Although the real class teaches the sexy way to remove your clothes, the workout involved also allows the students to break out a sweat almost as intensely as that from a badminton game, and 10 times more fun!

This new craze is sort of "applied yoga" or "Pilates with a purpose," what with the variations of the movements in more sensuous positions. Leave all your inhibitions at the door and you will be rejuvenated with the exercises and routines done in the class. The names of the steps are interesting, too, like the face gyration, prancing goddess, tush push, rump rock, snake walk and butt circle.

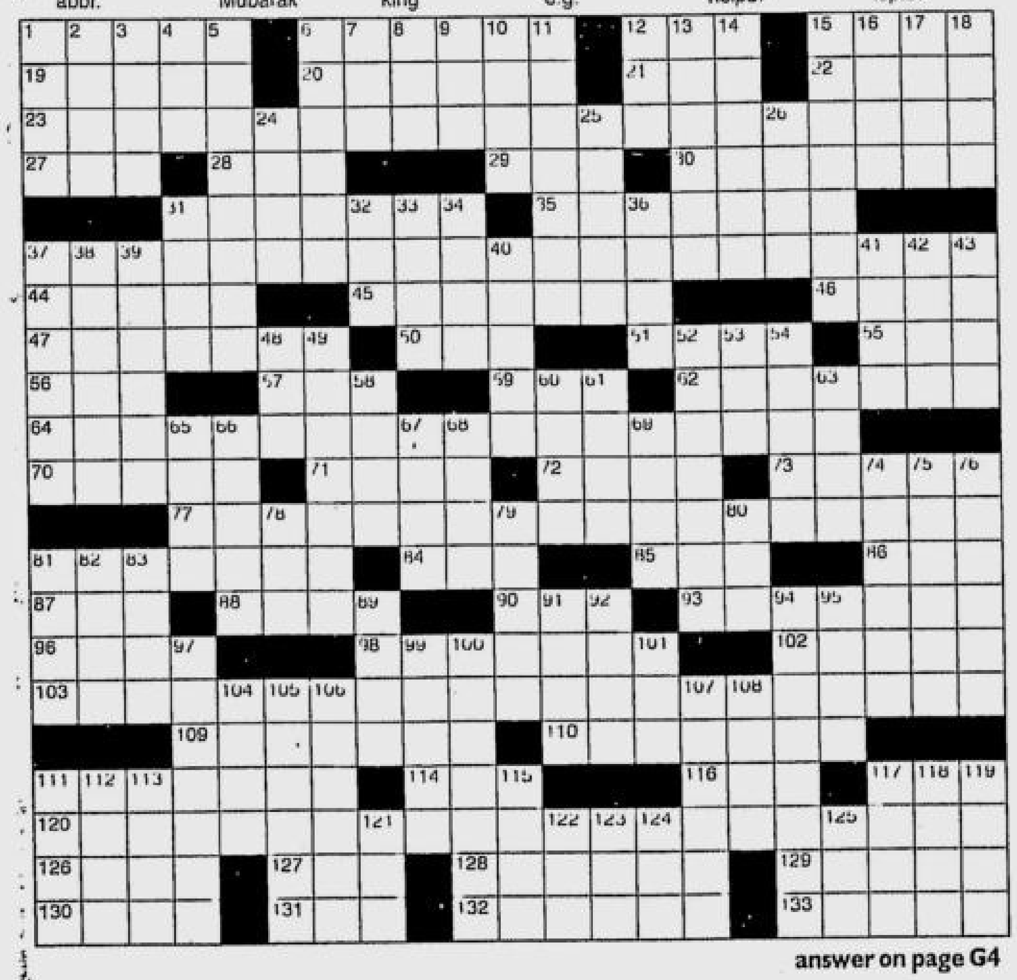
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

SOLID FACT

ACROSS
1 Marsh
6 Noise on the air
12 Orig. texts
15 Parisian pals
19 Pot- — (French meat-and-vegetables dish)
20 Groom's garb
21 — snail's pace
22 Pt. of NBA
23 Start of a riddle
27 35mm camera variety
28 Embrace
29 Biblical suffix
30 Like a quaint schoolhouse
31 Widens the gap
35 Pizza sauce herb
37 Riddle, part 2
44 Fake fat brand
45 Wool-gatherer?
46 Portal
47 "Odyssey" hero
50 O'Hare abbr.
51 — noche (tonight, in Tijuana)
55 Sleuth, slangily
56 Greek consonants
57 Place
59 Good lead
62 "Shul" or "shtetl"
64 Riddle, part 3
70 Mexican Mr.
71 Coat with gold
72 Since Hector was —
73 Doctor
77 Riddle, part 4
81 Goalie's leg protector
84 Veep Quayle
85 Seemingly forever
86 Mom's specialty
87 Jul.-Sep. linkup
88 Church area
90 Workout room
93 "The — -Lehrer Report"
96 Egg on
98 Greet with a grin
102 Egyptian president Mubarak
103 End of the riddle
109 French river
110 Quick greeting
111 Capital of Iran
114 Hosp. area
116 Actor Stephen
117 Taylor or Claiborne
120 Riddle's answer
126 Petri dish stuff
127 Org. for teachers
128 Big shindigs
129 Corporation in a 2002 scandal
130 Wands
131 Pig's pad
132 Gas used as fuel
133 Subway revolver

DOWN
1 Lumberjacks' tools
2 "Arli$$" star Michael
3 At a distance
4 Confronted
5 Items stuck in bulletin boards
6 Theatrical
7 Egypt's boy-king
8 Bunyan's blade
9 President pro —
10 Concept, in Caen
11 Twist out of shape
12 Fleetwood —
13 Moe, for one
14 Dry baths
15 C-3P0, e.g.
16 BLT topping
17 "—, sing America": Langston Hughes
18 Skid row
24 Sod
25 III
26 Easter preceder
31 Cruising expanses
32 Hunky-dory
33 Sand hill
34 "M*A*S*H" actress
36 To be, to Gigi
37 Heaps
38 Charm
39 Enters, as data
40 Les — -Unis
41 "Don't look at me!"
42 Leaves
43 Rainbow, e.g.
48 Prefix with dermal
49 Sol, Helios, and Ra
52 Illness ID
53 Carrere of "True Lies"
54 "— to the list" ("Ditto")
58 9-to-5er's shout
60 Vidi, translated
61 — Le Pew
63 Consider
65 Midday
66 Jazz drummer Gene
67 Prince called "the Impaler"
68 Writer Ferber
69 Elegance
74 Hate
75 "Fighting" NCAA team
76 Recurring at regular intervals
78 Spigot
79 Children's author Madeleine L'—
80 Messenger —
81 Weakens
82 Injure
83 Humpbacked helper
89 Sports channel
91 "You betcha!"
92 Wise Men
94 Acting-out game
95 Part of ENT
97 Folded page corners
99 Frenzied
100 Beverage block
101 Vietnamese New Year
104 British stoolie
105 Wheat, rye, and rice
106 14-line poem
107 Idiom, e.g.
108 Look of lust
111 Kind of ski lift
112 Therefore
113 Leader
115 — the crack of dawn
117 Actress Petty
118 Sacred cow
119 Region
121 Merry
122 Suffix with self
123 "— Na Na"
124 Egg layer
125 Explosive topic?



answer on page G4

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Food image courtesy of the Singapore Tourism Board

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FRENCH chargé d'affaires Bernard Regnauld-Fabre (center) raising a toast to France with DFA Usec. Franklin Ebdalin and Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco

VIRGINIA Moreno, Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher Isagani Yambot and Alliance Française de Manille's Deanna Ongpin-Recto

BELGIAN embassy's Mr. and Mrs. Thierry Roland

boa, Kookie Kato,
Go, Fr. Tito Caluag and

ALEX Pepino Jr., Angela Barrozo, Sally Manansala, Rebecca Lopez, Osai Ramos, Chola Rodriquez and Sophon Sawangratana

ay to middle age

MANAGING director of Wella Philippines Rebecca Lopez; judges Francis Lee, Stephan Zenz and Cecille Zamora; winning Piandre stylist Bernard Tomagan, assistant Abel Pineda, model Ria Bolivar; judges Jude Hipolito, Lulu Tan-Gan and Barge Ramos

BERNARD Tomagan and Abel Pineda with model Ria Bolivar

STYLIST Lourd Ryan Ramos, model Jaira Gale Janairo and assistant stylist Glen Roxas

ASSISTANT stylist Rudolph Britanico, model Jenni Hernandez and stylist Fred Allan Penales

We will have another session with Rissa soon and this time for the bridal shower of my nocturnal friend **Emily Siy**. My Chinese designer textmate has finally found her beau, **Chot Wong** , and will wed at the end of September. A striptease class will surely loosen her prim and proper demeanor.

Going blonde

Striptease also builds confidence, especially for me now that I don't feel too sexy what with my milking-cow breasts. The only way for me to get a boost is to go to Emphasis Salon and get my hair done. Hair expert **Victor Ortega** recently highlighted my abandoned hair with Japayuki-style blonde streaks, instantly enhancing my domestic state.

At the recent Wella Trend Vision Awards, Emphasis Salon garnered another title with stylist **Lourd Ramos**' team winning first runner-up. The grand champion was Piandré Salon in Greenbelt, interpreting the look of Being Rebellious. The best part of the contest is, the Piandré team will be sent on an all-expense-paid trip to England to compete in the Wella International Trend Vision Awards.

These professional hair shows are always fun to watch because it's exciting to see so many possible hairstyles and colors one can try in the future. For the Wella event, the whole Makati Shangri-La Ballroom had a cinema-wide screen that featured a 360-degree projection wall. That evening, I saw all the top hairstyles in the Philippines and realized how talented our Pinoy gay hairstylists are.

French fete

July is the month the French celebrate their national day, called Bastille Day. The French Embassy played host to a vibrant celebration in remembrance of the historic storming of the Bastille, which marked the first instance of Parisian people power.

With flowing French wine, champagne and cheese, the well-attended affair in the Mandarin Oriental was attended by several foreign ambassadors and a good number of political dignitaries, all taking the time to celebrate amidst our political chaos.

We Filipinos should emulate the patriotic style of the French. A wonderful way to do this is to support the theater productions of the Tanghalang Pilipino at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, which has invited me to be a director, together with Cirkulo owner **Malu Gamboa**. Though hesitant at first after I learned that all the plays would be in Tagalog, I figured supporting the arts is my small contribution to boosting our struggling cultural scene.

For its 19th season, Tanghalang Pilipino presents love in its diversity starting with "R'meo Luvs Dew-Lhiett," a modern *"jologs"* adaptation of Shakespeare's immortal love classic. Play dates start Aug. 5 until mid-September. I am also looking forward to the musical production of "Noli Me Tangere" in November. It will bring back memories of high school, when I once played Josephine Bracken wearing a long wavy wig. That must have been the start of my fetish for wigs.

For the "Look Who's Talking" episode tomorrow at 10 p.m. on ABC 5, I interviewed world-renowned **Lea Salonga**. If there is one performer who remains timeless, it's Lea. Now a semi-domesticated wife, the 30-something (but far from pushing 40) Lea has put the Philippines in the international theater map. Well, it's not a matter of age, really, but what Lea has made of her meaningful life. If only every Filipino could promote the arts as wonderfully as Lea, we would live in a much more colorful world.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

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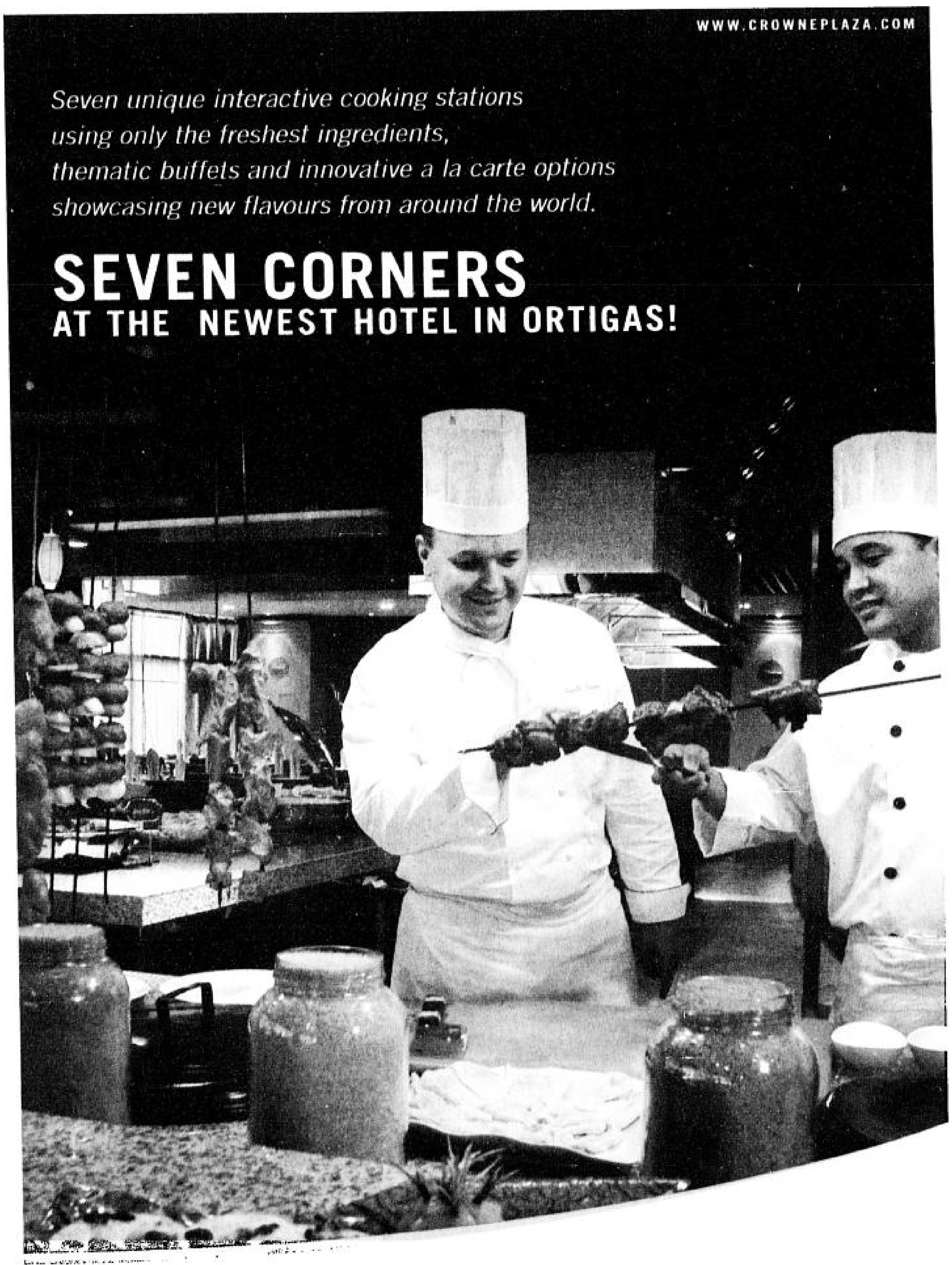

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SHAVE IT LIKE BECKHAM. David Beckham sports the new "metrosexual" trend: shaved armpits.

Beckham shaves armpits; GMA revives the Maria Clara

From page F1

masterpiece. Counterfeiters will have a tough time knocking off Gucci's latest line of leather goods. This high-gloss collection is called La Pelle Guccissima. The latest collection of shoes, bags and luggage uses Gucci's iconic trademarks, the double G logo and the horse bit. Artisans used handmade presses to hot-print the logo onto the accessories. The effect is pure luxury that's destined to be a classic.

The next big things for "metrosexuals." This generation's poster boy for men's fashion and grooming, **David Beckham**, has upped the ante with his new look. You may have seen him sporting long hair, cropped hair or even bald. We hear he even waxes his chest hair. Now he has introduced a new look that has never been seen before on men, not unless you are into porn: shaved armpits.

Recently, Gillette gifted Beckham with a diamond-encrusted razor which, maybe in his over-zealousness, may have gone a bit too far.

Another celebrity who has been seen sporting this look is rocker **Dave Navarro**. Just check out the TV series "Rockstar: INXS."

Will this new look catch on? And what could be the next trend Mr. Beckham might introduce? Shaved down there? For all we know he may have already done it!

Must-have accessory—Ribbon-tied necklaces. Ladylike dressing and romanticism are here to stay, so glam up your outfit and add a touch of femininity with bow-tied necklaces and ribbon embellished pearls as seen on the **Monique Lhuillier** and Lanvin runways. These necklaces are sure to draw everyone's attention to you. Attention designers and stores, this one's surefire hot!

Something to talk about—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's outfit at her State of the Nation Address. The President looked great in Ito Curata's embellished Maria Clara. The look may be the start of a new trend, replacing the "return of the terno" look...

Monique
Lhuillier

SHE'S A LADY. Must-have accessory: ribbon-tied necklaces

Jude Law's tryst with his kids' nanny. It's an ongoing saga now that his fiancée, **Sienna Miller**, was reportedly caught in the arms of **Orlando Bloom**. Women the world over, especially Pinays, want to know one thing: Where do they apply?

Check out the new Legaspi Sunday Market. It's in the Legaspi Park on Herrera (Rufino) Street. My favorite *lumpia* vendor is there and offers new delights and culinary fare. There are also homeware, organic vegetables and flowers...

Congratulations to Colin Mackay on the opening of his new restaurant, People's Palace, at Greenbelt 3. I was there for lunch and it was packed! This will surely be the newest and hottest place to dine in the metropolis. For the best Thai food in town you must visit the place. For reservations, call 7292888.

A funny thing happened on my way back to Manila. Everyone has his funny or sad tales about the airport, from lost luggage to children. I recently got back from a two-week vacation in the US. After more than 13 hours of travel I was back in Manila—Naia 2 to be exact. I have this habit of making a mad dash to immigration as soon as the plane door is opened.

It was great to be the first in the baggage-claim area. I was really hoping to get out of there as soon as possible. You know how Pinoys are with their *balikbayan* boxes. I saw what appeared to be my luggage.

As I carried my luggage onto my trolley and nearly went on the belt because it was heavy, a lady came up from nowhere and said, "*Hoy, akin iyan!*" Embarrassed I checked the name tag; she was right. I apologized and helped her place the luggage on her trolley.

By this time the baggage area was full, hot and noisy. True enough, there was this one lady who was, true to form, not only noisy but, in Tagalog, you would call *palengkera*. Once her luggage came out she was so excited and asked one of the porters to help her. She had a total of five *balikbayan* boxes plus a TV set (I was that bored that I counted them all).

Since she was in business class she had a priority tag enabling her to get her boxes first. To her dismay her TV set wasn't part of the early boxes. She started wailing and howling like she lost a child, saying "*Nag*-business class *pa ako, eh magkakasama pa yung* TV set *ko sa mga nag*-economy."

Her remark raised a few eyebrows in the process, mine included. Every few minutes she would repeat it and harass the porter. She even peeked through the entrance of the baggage belt and asked the men there, "*Wala pa ba iyong* TV *ko? Uuwi pa ako ng* Cavite!"

I had the best vantage point since she was standing next to me. Every so often I would catch her lean on my trolley and since she got on my nerve I would move it. She would lose her balance and look at me. She even got the nerve to place her foot on my trolley and I moved it again causing her to say, "*Aaaay*, bleep!"

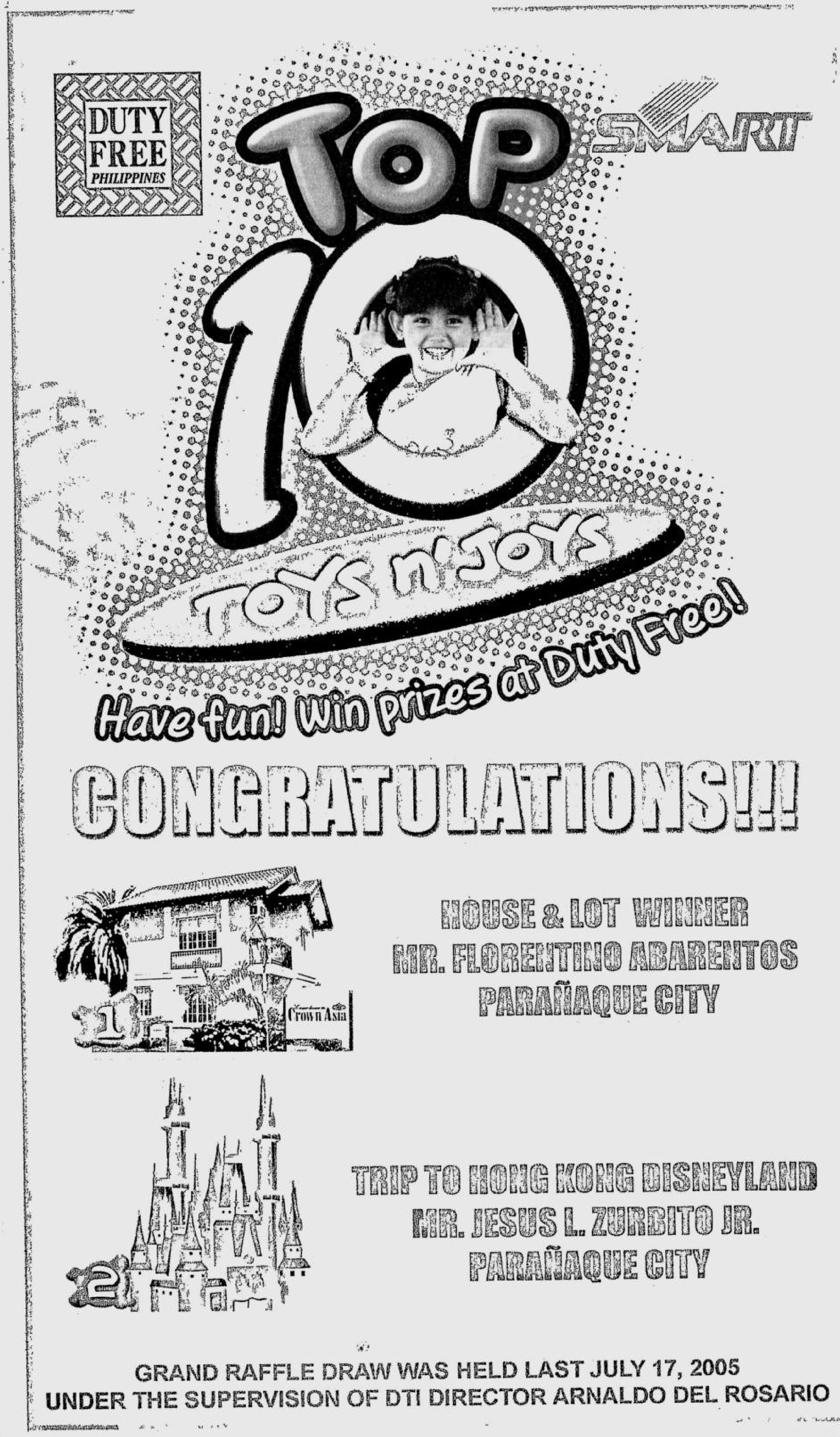
In moments like these, you really have to have either a good sense of humor or some Valium. It's also interesting to see what our *kababayans* bring home—from popcorn maker, boxes of Campbell soup and corned beef (don't they have them here?), and what was particularly interesting were those odd-shaped pieces. They come wrapped in bubble wrap, from fishing rods to pieces of a walker and baby carriage which have been disassembled but are packed in such a way that you only see bits and pieces. In their state they look like parts of an M-16 machine gun.

And don't get me started on the luggage—from high-end brands to some that are ready to fall apart, you see them all. Some are even wrapped in plastic and others so loud that you can see them a mile away.

After two hours of waiting and feeling sorry for myself my luggage arrived and right after it came the lady's TV. She muttered in a haughty voice, "*Ay, naku. dapat nag*-economy *na lang ako!*" Once I got my luggage, I hurriedly placed it on my trolley. She leaned over to me and said, "*O, hijo, buti nakuha mo 'yung bagahe mo. Pasensya ka na naabala kita, hindi kasi ako nakatulog eh.*" I smiled at her and said, "No problem."

Lesson learned: In the now famous words of **Melanie Marquez**, who will be coming out with a book titled, "Melanisms" this December, "Don't judge my brother Joey [in this case anyone]; he is not a book!"

E-mail antonsd@philtatler.com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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

SEA PRINCESS learns to striptease /F2

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A more welcoming look

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Roger Margallo

LOYAL patrons always deserve the best.

For Philippine Airlines, which first introduced to the country what it was like to pamper clients, putting its best foot forward has not been easy, especially if the only space available for relaxation in its sleek, ultramodern terminal is a dark basement with low ceiling, dotted with small, insignificant windows.

A MORE/ G2

MIAA manager Alfonso Cusi, PAL president Jaime Bautista and Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano during the ribbon-cutting ceremony

PAL's Mabuhay lounge gets a makeover

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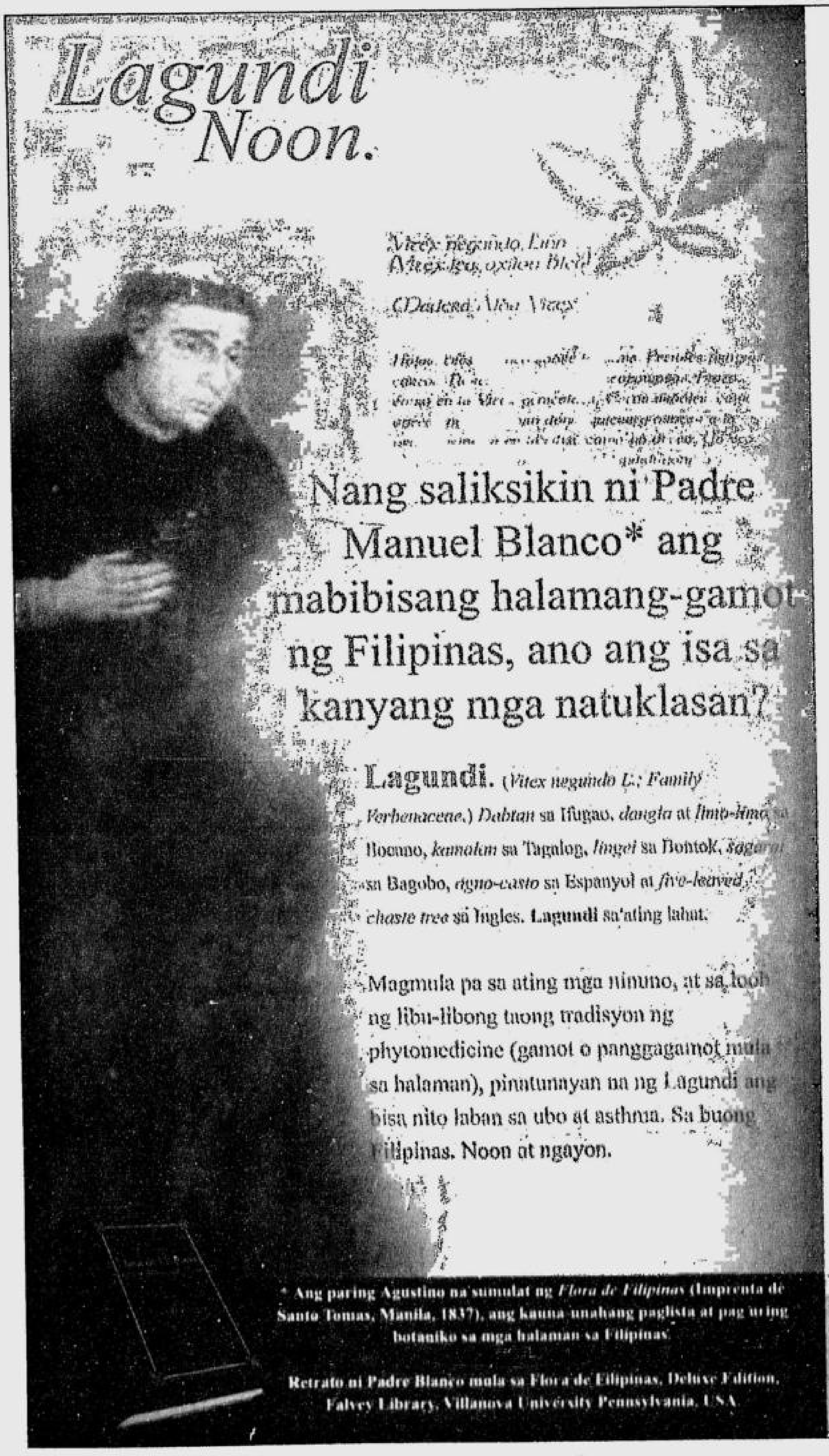


Lagundi Noon.

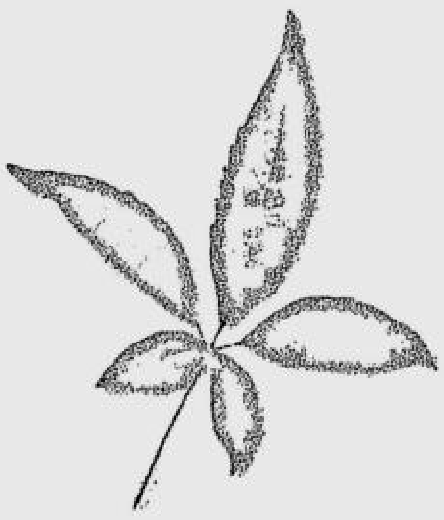
Nang saliksikin ni Padre Manuel Blanco* ang mabibisang halamang-gamot ng Filipinas, ano ang isa sa kanyang mga natuklasan?

Lagundi. (*Vitex negundo L.; Family Verbenaceae.*) *Dabtan* sa Ifugao, *dangla* at *limo-limo* sa Ilocano, *kamalan* sa Tagalog, *lingel* sa Bontok, *sagarai* sa Bagobo, *agno-casto* sa Espanyol at *five-leaved chaste tree* sa Ingles. **Lagundi** sa'ating lahat.

Magmula pa sa ating mga ninuno, at sa loob ng libu-libong taong tradisyon ng phytomedicine (gamot o panggagamot mula sa halaman), pinatunayan na ng Lagundi ang bisa nito laban sa ubo at asthma. Sa buong Filipinas. Noon at ngayon.

* Ang paring Agustino na sumulat ng *Flora de Filipinas* (Imprenta de Santo Tomas, Manila, 1837), ang kauna-unahang paglista at pag-uring botaniko sa mga halaman sa Filipinas.

Retrato ni Padre Blanco mula sa Flora de Filipinas, Deluxe Edition, Falvey Library, Villanova University Pennsylvania, USA



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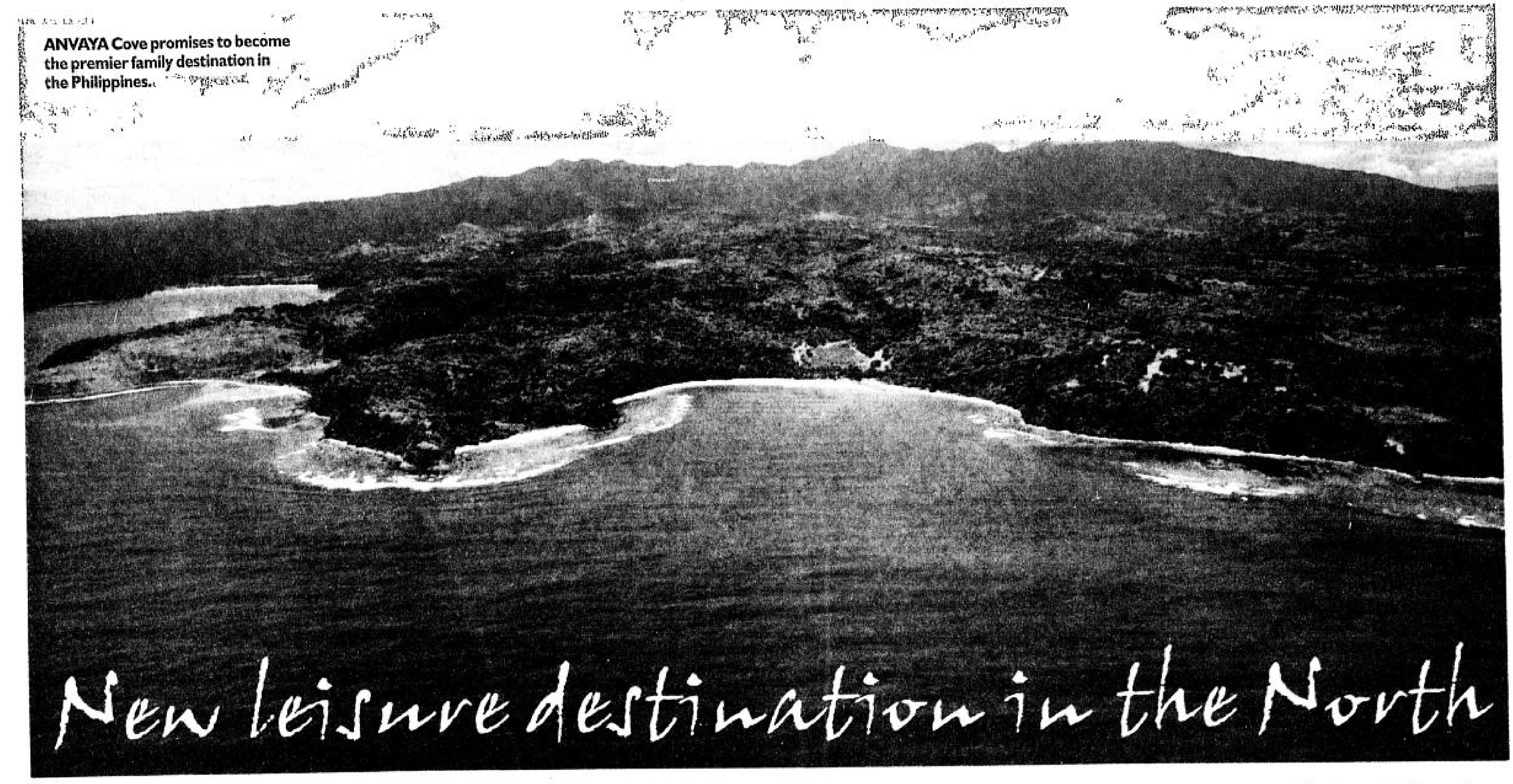
New leisure destination in the North



ANVAYA Cove promises to become the premier family destination in the Philippines.

AYALA Land Inc. (ALI), the preeminent developer of homes and communities in the country, did a careful study of the psyche of the Filipino family for its new project, the leisure residential community development called Anvaya Cove.

Its research into the market showed tremendous potential in serving the emotional and spiritual needs of Filipinos not just in their primary dwelling places, but during vacation seasons as well, where precious time with kids are seized and travel time with loved ones to exotic or faraway destinations double as bonding time with each other, making the trip an experience to savor as equally as the destination itself.

Scenic backdrop

It is with this thought that Anvaya Cove promises to become the premier family destination in the Philippines. Set against the scenic backdrop of mountain and sea in Morong, Bataan, the property is highlighted by such refreshing natural features as a picturesque 1.2-km stretch of wide sandy cove, rolling hills of aged mango and *narra* trees, and clear, running streams—the perfect elements of that ideal vacation getaway for families.

The site is also mere minutes away from the now very popular Subic Bay Freeport, where such tourist destinations as Ocean Adventure marine theme park, El Kabayo riding stables, Zoobic safari, and a host of other unnamed but quaint beaches, resorts and hotels thrive.

Anvaya Cove not only integrates itself within this growing vacation destination in the North, but also provides more alternatives for both active and relaxing activities for unwinding moments.

Ayala Land's vision for Anvaya Cove is to create an environment where families can come together with their friends, with the other family members and relatives, and have a place they can look back on with fondness.

Recreational living

ALI's Leisure and Lifestyle Communities Group is a new division tasked to explore and develop the market for real estate geared toward recreational living, leisure and secondary home for retirement. The development promises to offer amenities that are at par with the standards set by international tourist destinations in Hawaii, California, Miami, Phuket and Bali, offering the same quality of personal and family relaxation these places are known for.

Anvaya will offer a variety of activities at its Beach and Nature Club, with its main pavilion for dining and entertainment and a pool complex for adults and kids; a recreational lagoon for fishing and other more relaxed water activities, plus a wide grass lawn for frisbee throwing or simple picnics with the family; and a water sports pavilion for more active marine adventures such as jet ski, speedboat and rafting. There will also be a fun and exciting Nature Camp, with facilities such as ziplines and rope courses designed to enhance the bond between family, friends, self and nature itself.

Members will have the option to sign up with marine rangers for lessons in scuba diving, sailing or surfing. Forest rangers will assist and enhance the nature experience through guided nature trail hikes.

Dream home

Membership in the Anvaya Beach and Nature Club allows the exclusive privilege to choose a residential lot where families can build their dream vacation home, or own a luxurious villa which offers a perfect vantage of the sea.

Neighborhoods will be communities where building designs are Asian-inspired and homes are thoughtfully woven into the landscape. Guidelines will also help preserve the natural lay of the land and ensure the maintenance of wide open spaces.

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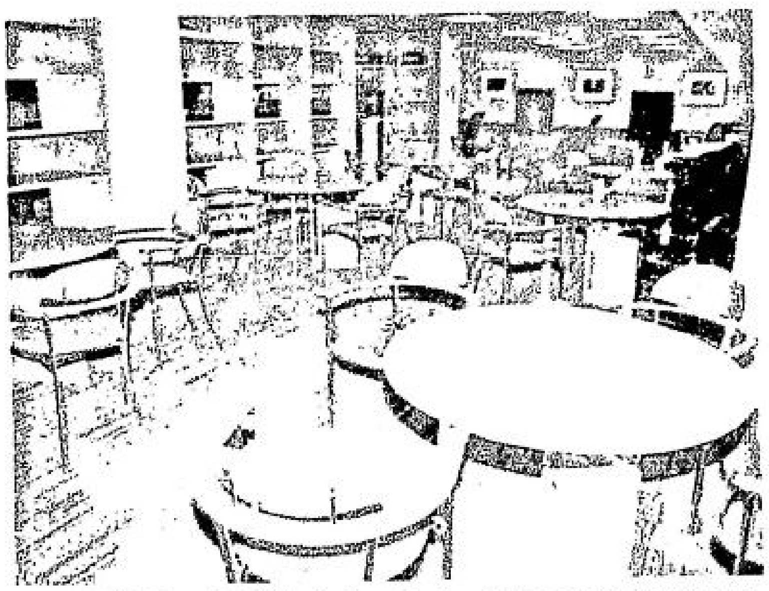
A more welcoming look

From page G1



THE DIVIDER on the left is designed to break the continuity of space.

PAL president Jaime Bautista, Ivy Almario, Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano, Cynthia Almario, and MIAA manager Alfonso Cusi pose by the buffet table, now relocated to the center of the lounge.

In fact, the building's blueprint from years ago had assigned the isolated room to be administrative offices of the airport, not an exclusive lounge for select passengers to loosen up while waiting for their flights. To top it all, the confined space had an imperfect floor layout, which was, to put it mildly, every designer's visual nightmare.

But trust the savvy Almario sisters to create a sense of space when there's hardly anything to work on, and even when the act of simply poking a hole for, say, a décor, needed signatures and approval from the higher ups. And the deadline given, from concept to execution, was a mere heartbeat away.

"We could not touch anything, not even the lighting," says Cynthia Almario, creative director of Atelier Almario.

Poor, dull

Cynthia, with sister Ivy, took up the challenge of transforming the dated Mabuhay Lounge—the private hideaway for Philippine Airlines' business-class travelers and elite members of the Mabuhay Miles frequent-flyer program—into an elegant, modern haven to suit the weary businesspersons and vacationers alike.

Although the old lounge was not exactly bad, the poor layout and dull, gray motif simply had to go. Natural light barely crept into awkward space then as the very little windows the room had were covered with dowdy Venetian blinds. The buffet table, supposedly the main attraction, was obscurely tucked away against the wall.

The redesigned lounge today has the buffet table "floating" in the middle of the room that makes everything revolve around the food, truly a reflection of the Filipino culture. The only requirement from the chef, the designers say, is for the long table to have amenities for hot and cold dishes.

Shelf dividers were installed behind it as a point of visual interest "so that when you enter the room your eyes stop toward the buffet," Cynthia says.

"They serve as visual anchor so that the lounge won't look like a cafeteria," Ivy explains.

While it blocks off a section where patrons would rather read or watch TV, the shelf divider also stacks newspapers and magazines.

The sisters ripped off the gray carpet and installed instead heavy-nylon in taupe, a color light enough to have reflective characteristics that it actually manages to lift the space. The walls were painted beige, and a sheer shade replaced the Venetian blinds, finally allowing some sunlight to filter into the room.

Photo showcase

Instead of commissioning artists, the Almarios posted black-and-white photo reproductions from PAL's in-flight magazine. These pictures now adorn the walls, highlighting local tourism and are fast becoming favorite conversation pieces for many travelers.

"We have to make [the travelers] forget the limitations of the space," Ivy says.

The budget, which Cynthia calls is "very reasonable," required that the sisters work with existing furniture that fortunately enough, they say, were still in top shape. The Almarios reupholstered the furnishings, making sure whatever work done to the lounge had to match the new Naia 3 Terminal in case PAL will have to relocate some day.

Everything, in fact, had to be mobile, including the color motif. The Naia 3, for instance, will be in teal, chrome, white, beige and industrial in design. The new Mabuhay Lounge, both say, will seamlessly fit into the design scheme of the new terminal.

Warming up the ambience are orchids, including some on the buffet table, and grass in small pots. Orchids, the sisters say, are value-for-money décor as they need to be replaced every six weeks only. The patches of greens in the lounge typify the tropical country PAL represents.

The new lounge also has a business center equipped with telephones, fax machine and PCs with unlimited Internet access. It also boasts of Wi-Fi Internet connection, with a complimentary access card for the first 20 minutes. A 42-inch LG plasma TV is located in one corner, and a quick massage service to the truly road-weary.

"This is the kind of service and image we would like to project," says PAL's Felix Cruz.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

THE NEW Mabuhay lounge aims to give PAL's frequent flyers the service they truly deserve.

CUBICLES give clients the privacy they need, and computers are equipped with Internet connection.

RECEPTION area

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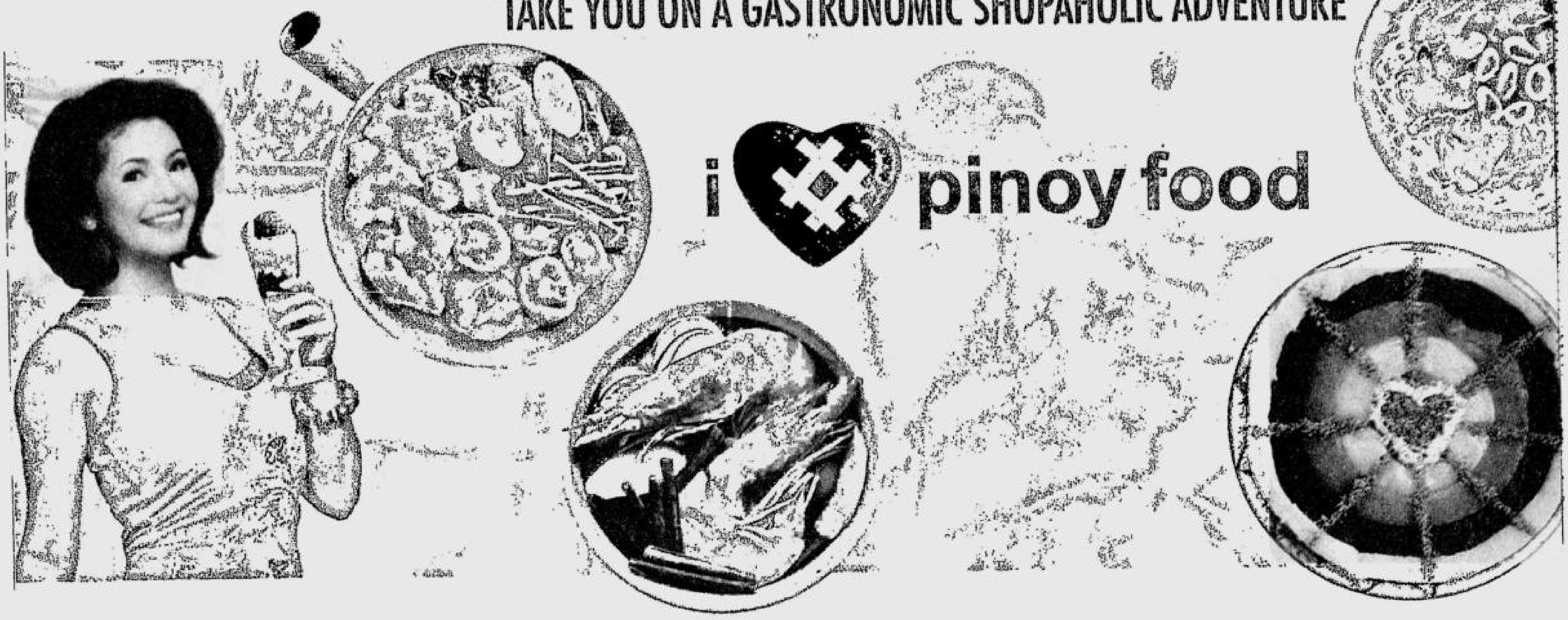

In keeping with its mission to promote the Philippines, not just to tourists, but to all Filipinos, the Department of Tourism and SMART COMMUNICATIONS, Inc. will soon launch the second phase of this year's Biyahe Na! Campaign. This time, the focus is on the local cuisine and quality handicrafts which all Filipinos can be proud of. The SMART Marketing Team headed by Boy Martirez and Ricky Isla recognizes food and shopping as the next logical step in marketing the nation. It likewise reinforces DOT Secretary Joseph Ace Durano's mission to promote the country on its strengths, of which food and shopping are major pillars.

Two television commercials will soon be launched to support this campaign. The first, which focuses on food, promises to be a visual feast, featuring such delicacies as adobo, sinigang, kakanin, ihaw-ihaw and lechon. The second commercial, which focuses on shopping, brings to light the number of export-quality Philippine-made items such as furniture from Citem and Buji Layug, fixtures from Kish, Aranaz bags, Miladay jewelry, garments from such designers as Dita Sandico-Ong and Patis Tesoro and much more. Responsible for giving the television campaign its distinct look during the initial phase, Jun Reyes resumes his role as director for the two new commercials.

I ♥ PHILIPPINES
Biyahe Na!
SMART
PHILIPPINES

Once again, Regine Velasquez will serenade us with versions of "Biyahe Tayo." The song was initially produced by Pfizer-Bonamine and Perceptions, Inc.'s Noel Nieva, written by Rene Nieva and arranged by Rico Blanco and Mike Villegas. The Songbird's enchanting voice is sure to allure Filipinos to see more of their country, experience more of its flavors and splurge on more of its crafts.

Joining the DOT and SMART in this endeavor is SM Malls. The retail giant currently offers discounts to SMART BIYAHE NA! card holders. In the coming weeks, expect more exciting offers and bigger discounts on food and shopping in SM Malls nationwide. To avail of a SMART BIYAHE NA! Card, one simply needs to buy a SMART PREPAID SIM or phonekit or download the BIYAHE NA! mobile content. The cards are available at your nearest SMART WIRELESS CENTER or BIYAHE NA! booth at SM. Other corporate partners supporting the DOT and SMART are Jollibee, Philippine Airlines, Shell, and WOW Magic Sing.

So prepare your appetites for food and shopping as the DOT and SMART lead you into an adventure that can only take place in this land we love. Biyahe na sa Pilipinas!

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Son will dump GF for 'right someone'

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

My son, who's 16 years old and first year in college, has been seeing a rather plain girl, *morena*, on the chubby side. But she seems very smart, kind, sweet and thoughtful. She is also a very good dancer, cheerleader and a consistent honor student. She has an older brother so she's the baby of the family.

Her parents are hardworking, quite wealthy but humble. As their only daughter, they are protective of her.

Since I didn't want to encourage any serious relationship, my son and I agreed he would only introduce his girl (whoever) to me after college graduation.

On their high school graduation, this girl would not let go of my son, insisting our family joined hers and have our photographs taken.

Her parents hugged and kissed us warmly after we were introduced. We politely posed but never got copies of the photos. They also had a special gift for my son.

This MU (mutual understanding) thing started about two years ago. This girl posted on "Friendster" that my son was already in a relationship so everyone found out.

They have known each other since grade school. This girl even said she had been "courting" my son since sixth grade. From day one, my son was very quiet about this. He did not want to discuss or mention her at all.

He seems quite defensive when she is mentioned. I feel he may be a little embarrassed because she is not pretty. All his friends and cousins tease him about this, saying he can do better since he was named "crush *ng bayan*" in grade and high schools.

He is an above-average student, excelling in both Math and English and a Varsity tennis player. Honestly, she is no trophy girlfriend.

Sometimes I feel my son is somewhat trapped. He asked that I ignore her text messages. He never gave her presents.

But I suspect they are often together before and after classes. This girl begged her parents to let her study in my son's college. I heard her parents favored my son because of our American citizenship.

I asked my son about the status of their relationship and he admitted they were still together but he would break up with her when he found that special someone.

But he thinks she is really a good person, having helped him in many high school projects. I told him I would respect and support his decision but college was top priority. I also told him not to be embarrassed with his choice. I particularly stressed he should not "use" her—that I did not raise a "user."

He told me recently a very cute and sexy Chinese girl was flirting with him. Also, he has been car-pooling with a Miss Campus for over two weeks now. Help!

WORRIED MOTHER

Looks like he has quite a complex relationship this early. Your son seems caught between a rock and a hard place. Or he may have the best of both worlds. The girl seems to have a strong personality. She found him, she got him and she has him—body and soul—at least for the moment.

From your description, she seems to be a daughter any parent would cherish.

Your son's most pressing "problem" is peer pressure and he somewhat can't deal with that. Much as he likes her, he is ashamed that she doesn't have much in the beauty department. Knowing how young kids put so much value on "wrappings" and "appearances," his dilemma is he can't make others see what he sees in her. Seems like it will take a while for these juveniles to realize that physical beauty is only skin-deep.

Let him swim in this river by himself. Throwing a life jacket when he isn't drowning is pointless. Don't worry that the girl may only want your son because of his US citizenship. For all her accomplishments, it does not seem consistent with your description of her that she would use your son to get to the US. She seems capable of going anywhere and doing anything with her brains.

Though she may be plain, this girl may actually be good for him. He can benefit from her intellectual prowess and strengthen his character.

In the meantime, let him enjoy life. He is only young once. How can he learn from experience if he doesn't make all these mistakes now? But continue to remind him that he shouldn't "use" her.

For him to say he'll "break up with her the moment he finds the right girl" is tasteless, terribly unkind and malicious. It's bad even if he didn't mean it and horrible if it were true. Fate might decide to send him a nicely packaged girl but who would prove to be his ruin.

The saying "what goes around comes around" is not without basis. It happens time and time again. Just tell your son to be careful he doesn't run afoul of the karmic law.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to Inquirer. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday on dwBR 104.3 FM.

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TRAVELBRIEFS

New Incheon-Cebu flights

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) has added Cebu City to its numerous destinations.

It now services the Seoul-Cebu route four times a week, flying to and from its hub at the Incheon International Airport to Mactan International Airport in Cebu. The airline also flies to Seoul and Pusan from Manila 11 times weekly and twice weekly, respectively. It flies from the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark to Seoul five times a week. The airline also opened recently flights to Chicago from Incheon. From Seoul, Asiana flies to 10 points in Korea and 63 destinations in Asia, Australia, Europe and the United States. Call 8925688. Asiana was recently named one of the world's Top 10 airlines by the London-based aviation consultancy, Skytrax. The distinction was accorded following the 2005 annual survey of passengers including business travelers, vacationers and backpackers. A Skytrax had previously given Asiana the Airline Excellence Award for Asia, citing it as the best-performing Asian airline.

Forums on travel and tourism

Kamayan Pasay Road plays host to a series of media forums focusing on building a stronger and more active tourism industry in the country. Called "Lakbay Talakay sa Kamayan Pasay Road," these monthly discussions have been initiated to spread word on the advantages of a dynamic tourism trade, to tackle issues that have been preventing its growth and to help the public understand and appreciate the significance of tourism as a developmental force in the Philippines. Different topics will be discussed each month, paneled by leaders and industry experts. The first of the series of forums was held last July 20 and had the topic "Tourism on the Upswing." "Lakbay Talakay" is a joint program of the University of the Philippines-Asian Institute of Tourism, Kamayan Pasay Road, and CML Tourism Consultancy Service. Call 9269442 (UP-AIT), 7172372 (Kamayan Marketing office) or 0919-3238213 (CML).

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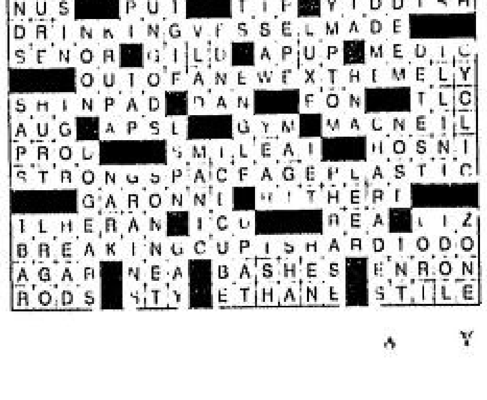

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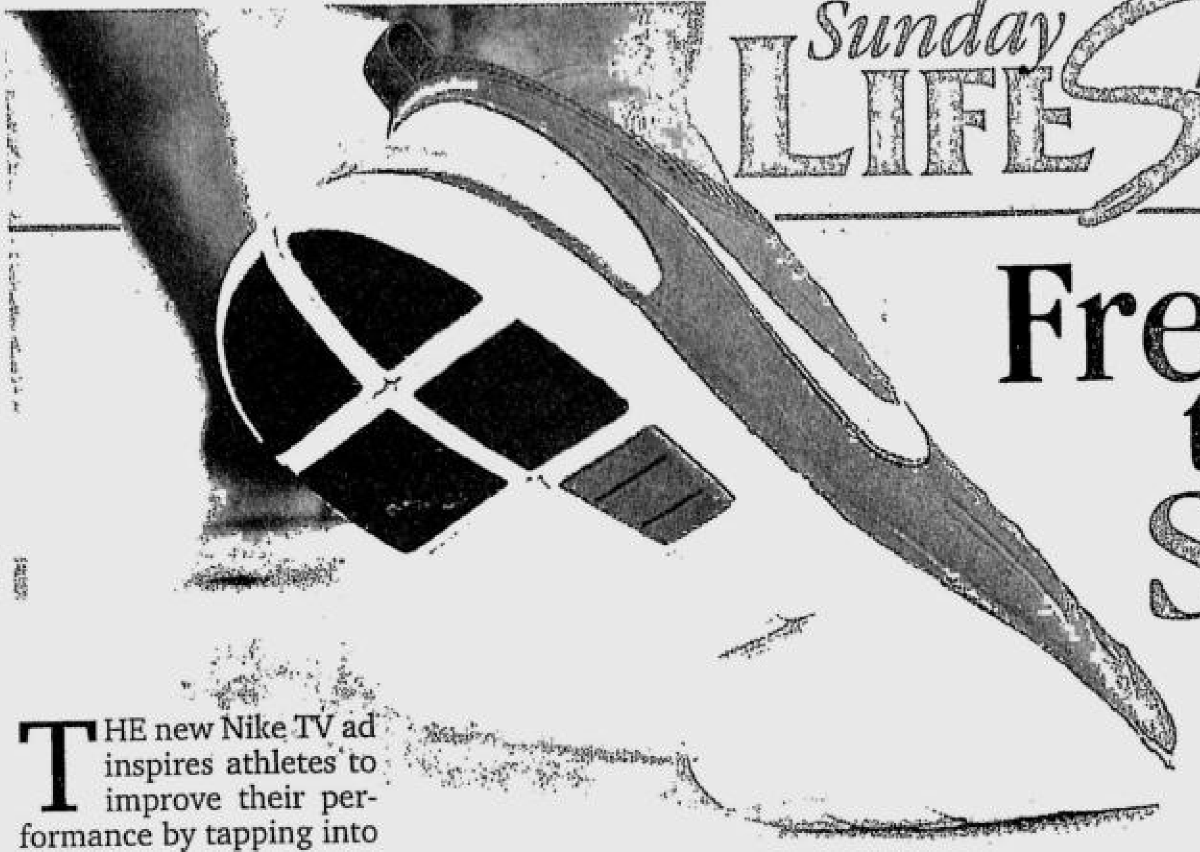

Freeing the sole

NIKE Free is a shoe that mimics barefoot running, for a more equitable strength distribution to the rest of the body.

A RUNNING shoe designed to reawaken and reinvigorate your feet

THE new Nike TV ad inspires athletes to improve their performance by tapping into their greatest potential. "Leave our old selves behind," says the ad. How to do that? By becoming new individuals who make the most of our mental and physical capabilities.

Towards that end, Nike offers breakthrough technology that not only inspires athletes to go further but also technically supports their goals through the Nike Sphere React apparel line and Nike Free footwear.

Nike Free was born out of extensive research on barefoot technology. Tests confirmed that unshod, the foot has a more neutral foot-to-surface angle that allows freedom for the toes to flex and grip, creating muscle usage up through the rest of the body. This results in an equal balance of pressure with every heel contact, while a lateral progression of pressure spreads equally through the metatarsal region to the toes, much like a plane coming in for landing then off to a smooth lift-off.

So what does this all mean? The foot works well when it's free. It works naturally and more efficiently to distribute the pressure of landing and launching, which cannot be mimicked when wearing just ordinary shoes.

With this information, Nike's. design team developed a shoe that mimics barefoot running, allowing the foot to use its own natural motion to deliver strength to the rest of the body.

Nike Free elevates human potential through this technology. Quite literally, it is designed to work your feet in ways that make them stronger through a proper distribution of pressure points. This helps athletes become faster, better, in whatever field they choose, whether basketball, track and field, tennis—any sport that involves running and use of the feet.

Nike Free and Nike Sphere React products are available at select Nike outlets nationwide.

NIKE technically supports the goals of athletes to go the distance through the Nike Sphere React apparel line and Nike Free footwear.

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Culinary Meet 2005 year 3

The Tuna Asian Fusion Cooking Competition

September 17 and 18, 2005 at Market! Market!

AMATEUR 1
Tuna Asian Fusion/Full-Course Meal
GRAND PRIZE:
Trip to Hongkong for two (2)
Plus Php 10,000.00 Cash

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Composed of 2-member family team, e.g. husband-wife, mother-daughter, brother-sister, etc.
2. Open to food enthusiasts who are not currently employed or do not own a business in the food industry.

AMATEUR 2
Battle for the Best Tuna Baon
GRAND PRIZE:
Php 5,000.00 Cash
Plus Meyer and Moulinex Kitchenwares

QUALIFICATION:
Open to High School students 13-16 years old.

STUDENT DIVISION
Tuna Hors-D'Oeuvres Attack
GRAND PRIZE:
Trip to Boracay for 3
Plus Php 10,000.00 Cash

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. Composed of three member team presently enrolled in HRM, Culinary, Hospitality course and other related courses.
2. Contestants must not be working as part-time employee in the food industry.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Contestants are required to send an original recipe (not previously entered in any contest, publication or exhibit) using only Century Tuna Solid in Vegetable Oil or Water, Century Tuna Chunks in Vegetable Oil or Water, Century Tuna Chunks Spanish Style, Century Tuna Flakes in Vegetable Oil, Century Tuna Hot and Spicy, and Century Tuna Lite as the main ingredient. Other than Century Tuna, recipes are required to make use of at least one of the sponsors' food ingredients: Del Monte Pineapple, Home Pride Pasta, Jolly Canned Vegetables and Soups, Ajinomoto, Good Life Oriental Sauces, Angel Evaporada, Gourmet's Salad Dressings, Sauces and Dips, and Cream Pure Cornstarch and Cream All-Purpose Flour.

All recipes must be typewritten in double-space format on a plain white letter size bond paper with a photocopy of a valid ID of the participant and a 3R photo of each recipe. Recipes should be printed in three (3) copies and sealed in a white envelope accompanied by an accomplished entry form (available at leading supermarkets and at Scribble Works) and a label of any participating Century Tuna variant. Recipes should clearly specify the yield and step-by-step procedure for all the ingredients stated.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES:

AMATEUR 1 August 26, 2005, 6:00 PM
AMATEUR 2 August 26, 2005, 6:00 PM
STUDENT August 16, 2005, 6:00 PM

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE MAILED TO:
SCRIBBLE WORKS PRODUCTION AND EVENT MANAGEMENT INC.
P.O. Box 211, Pasig Central Post Office,
1600 Pasig City.

For any questions or clarifications, interested participants may call the event organizer at (02) 633-9001, (02) 633-9272

All qualified entries will be notified by phone.

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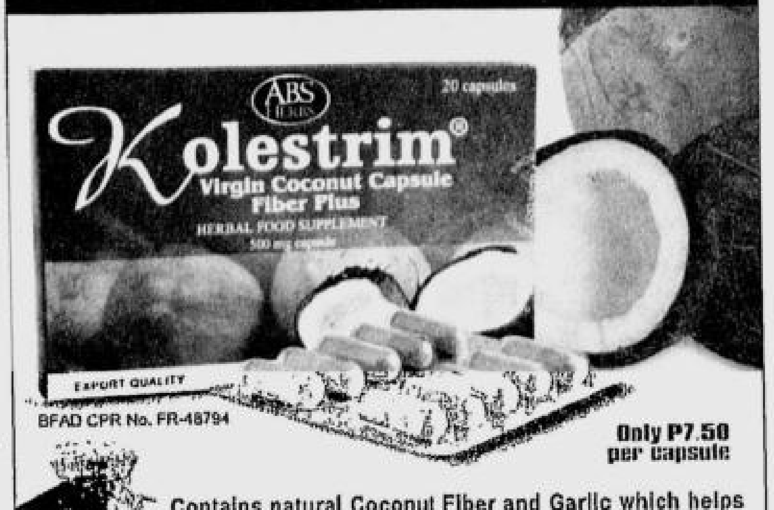
HIGH CHOLESTEROL?



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INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

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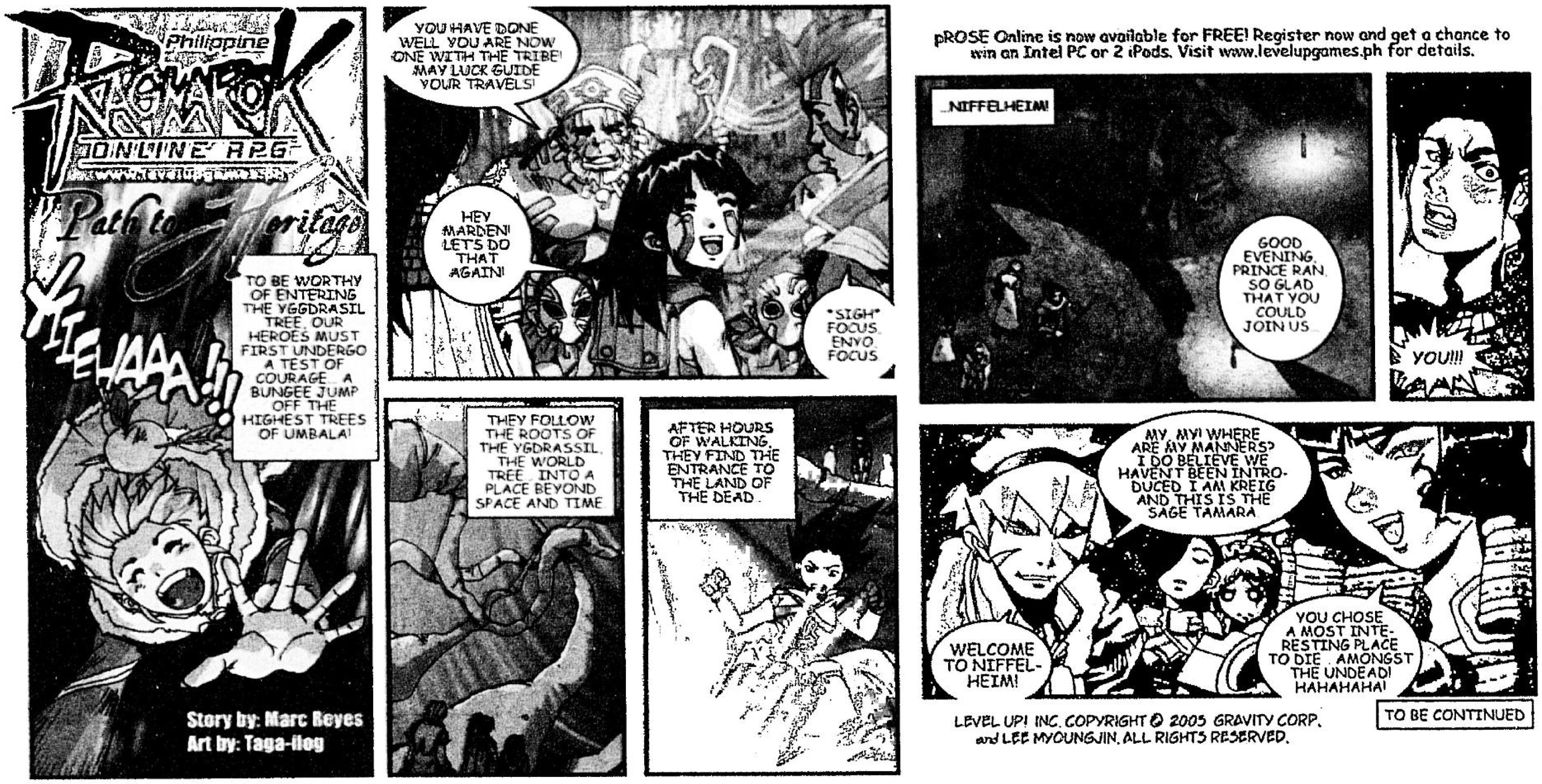
RAGNAROK

BY MARC REYES & TAGA-ILOG


Philippine Ragnarok
ONLINE RPG
Path to Heritage
YIIEHAAA!!!
TO BE WORTHY OF ENTERING THE YGGDRASIL TREE, OUR HEROES MUST FIRST UNDERGO A TEST OF COURAGE... A BUNGEE JUMP OFF THE HIGHEST TREES OF UMBALA!
Story by: Marc Reyes
Art by: Taga-ilog
YOU HAVE DONE WELL. YOU ARE NOW ONE WITH THE TRIBE! MAY LUCK GUIDE YOUR TRAVELS!
HEY MARDEN! LET'S DO THAT AGAIN!
SIGH FOCUS, ENYO, FOCUS.
THEY FOLLOW THE ROOTS OF THE YGDRASSIL, THE WORLD TREE... INTO A PLACE BEYOND SPACE AND TIME.
AFTER HOURS OF WALKING, THEY FIND THE ENTRANCE TO THE LAND OF THE DEAD...
...NIFFELHEIM!
GOOD EVENING, PRINCE RAN. SO GLAD THAT YOU COULD JOIN US...
YOU!!!
MY, MY! WHERE ARE MY MANNERS? I DO BELIEVE WE HAVEN'T BEEN INTRODUCED. I AM KREIG AND THIS IS THE SAGE TAMARA.
WELCOME TO NIFFELHEIM!
YOU CHOSE A MOST INTERESTING PLACE TO DIE... AMONGST THE UNDEAD! HAHAHAHA!
TO BE CONTINUED

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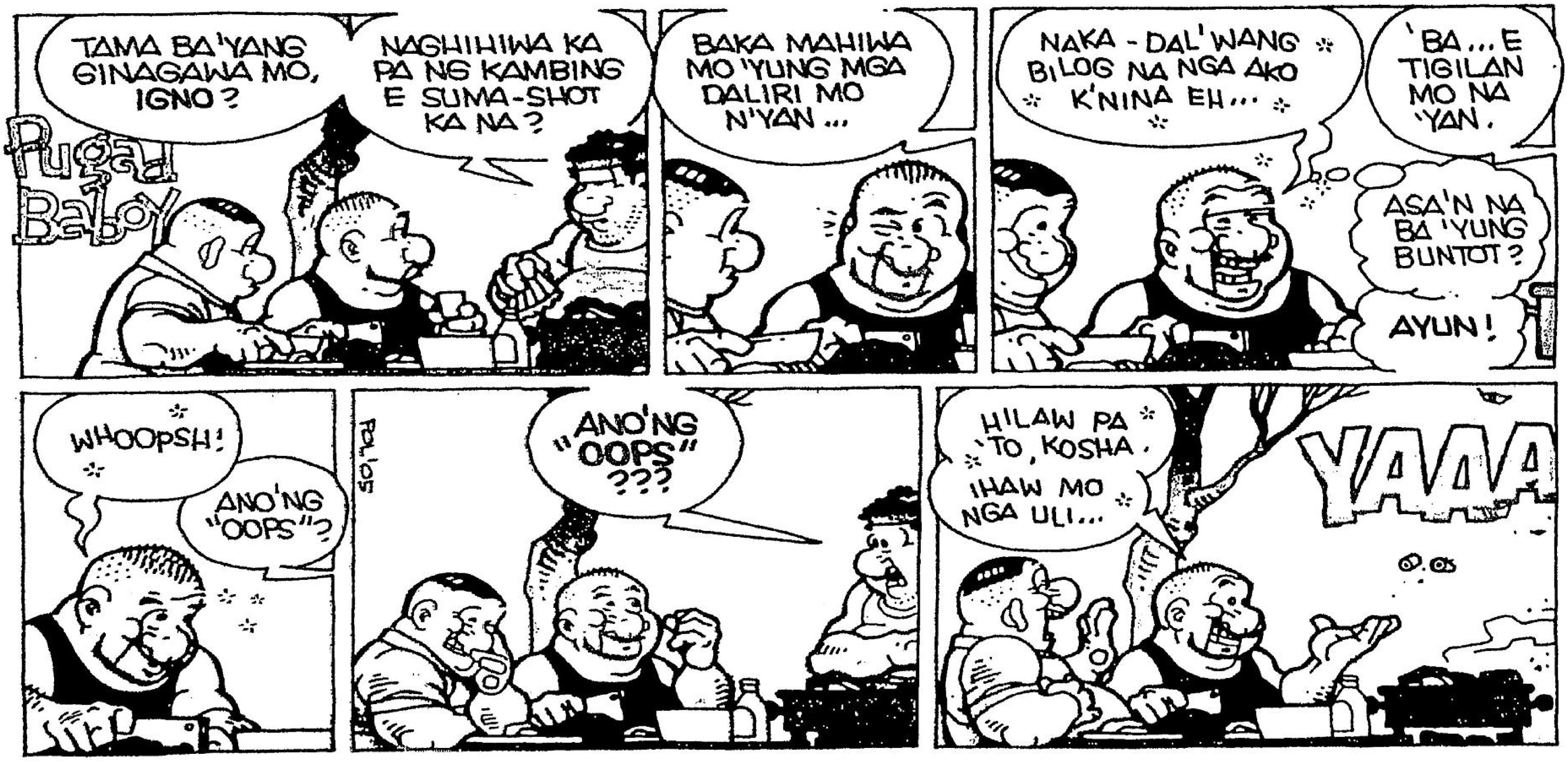
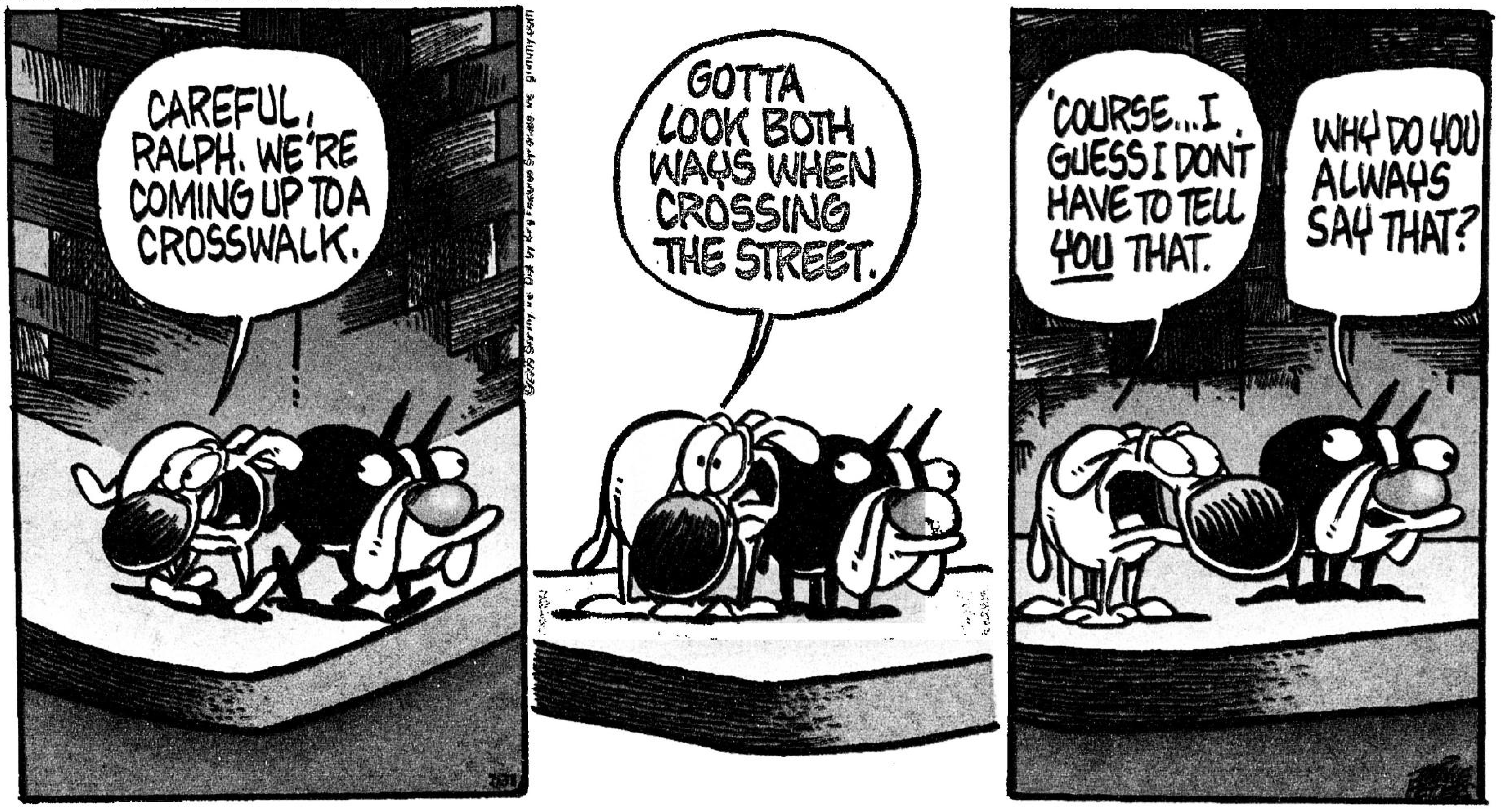
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


Pugad Baboy
TAMA BA'YANG GINAGAWA MO, IGNO?
NAGHIHIWA KA PA NG KAMBING E SUMA-SHOT KA NA?
BAKA MAHIWA MO 'YUNG MGA DALIRI MO N'YAN...
NAKA-DAL'WANG BILOG NA NGA AKO K'NINA EH...
'BA... E TIGILAN MO NA 'YAN.
ASA'N NA BA 'YUNG BUNTOT?
AYUN!
WHOOPSH!
ANO'NG "OOPS"?
POL '05
"ANO'NG "OOPS" ???
HILAW PA 'TO, KOSHA. IHAW MO NGA ULI...
YAAA

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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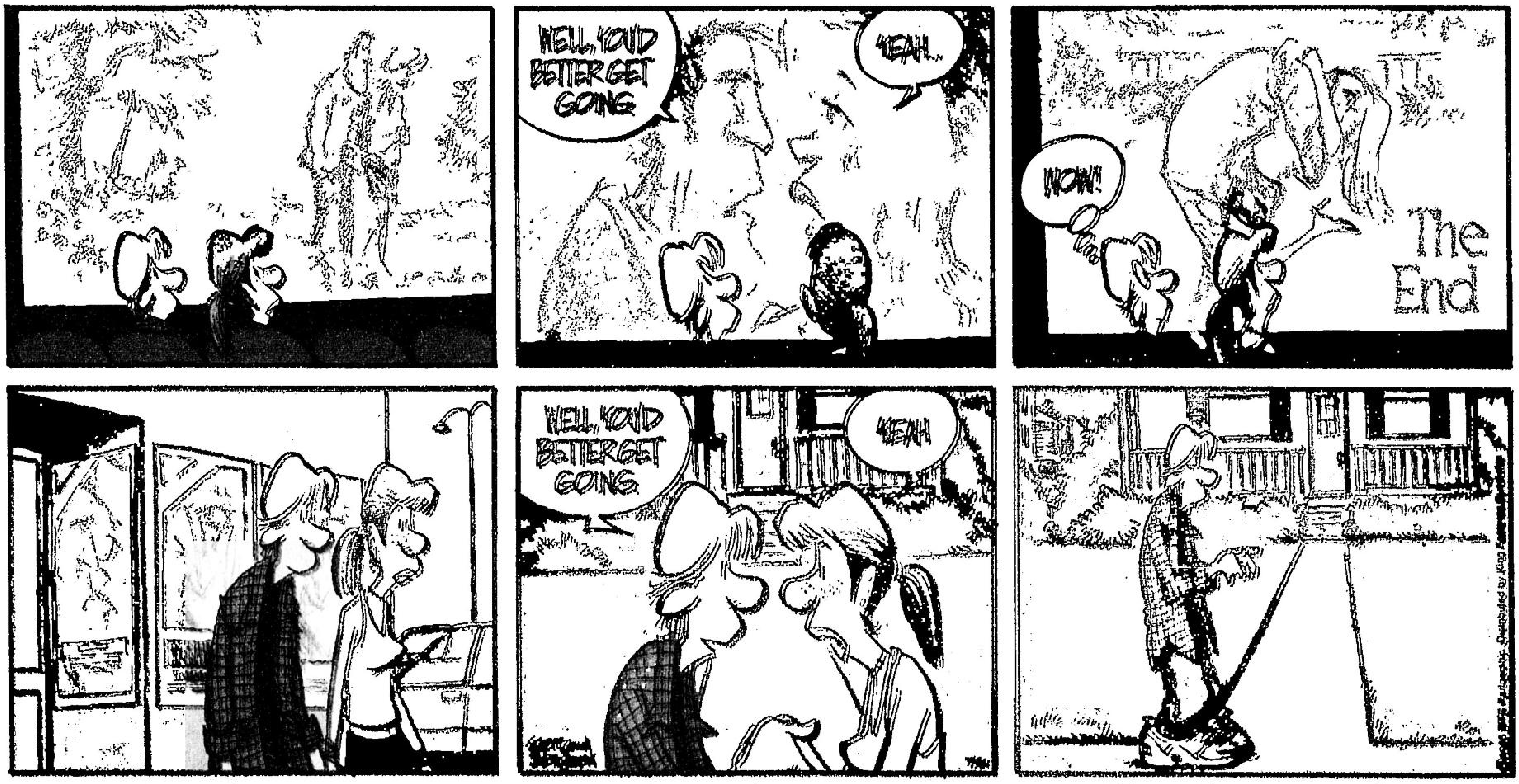
CAREFUL, RALPH. WE'RE COMING UP TO A CROSSWALK.
GOTTA LOOK BOTH WAYS WHEN CROSSING THE STREET.
'COURSE... I GUESS I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT?

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING.
YEAH...
WOW!
The End
WELL, YOU'D BETTER GET GOING.
YEAH
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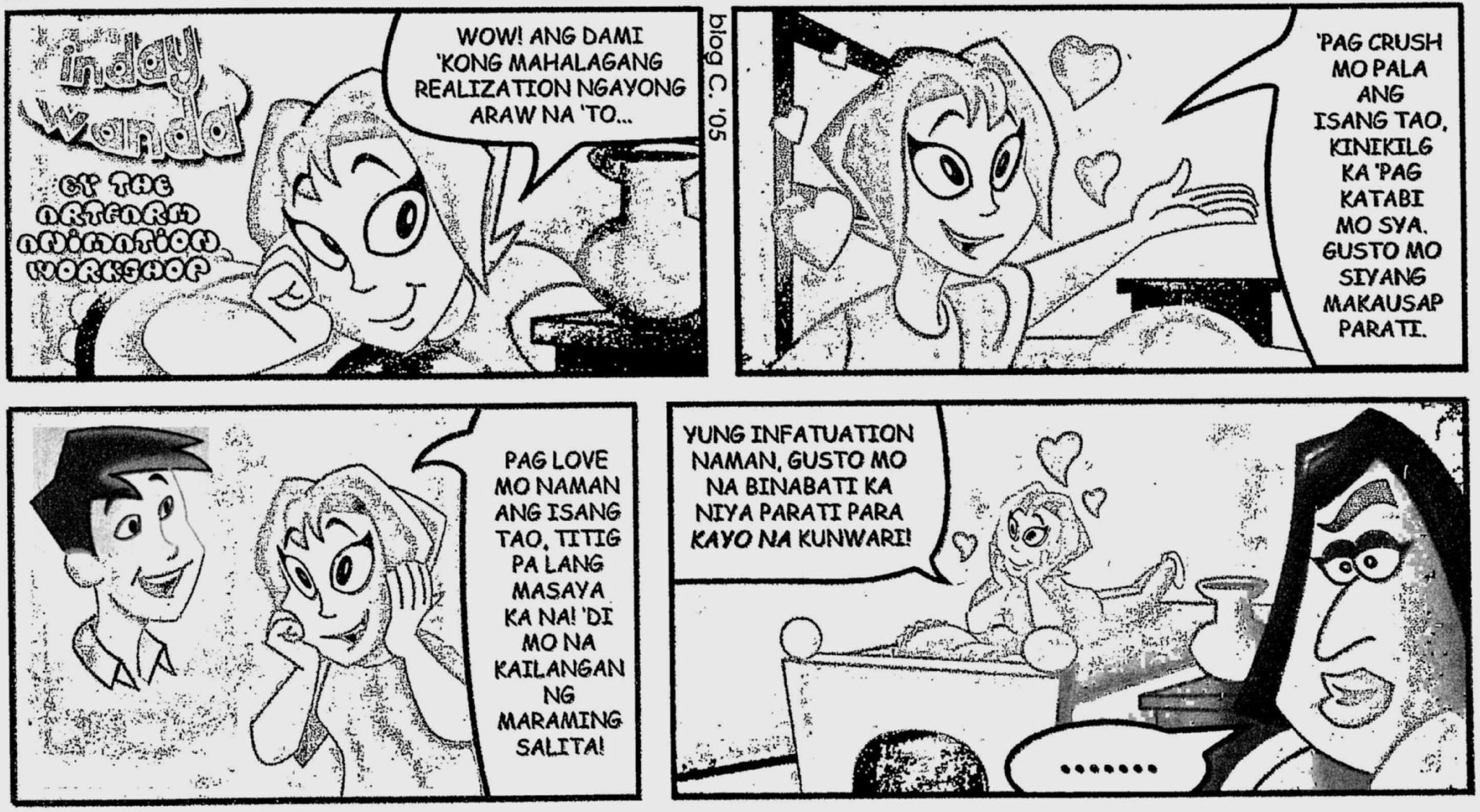
INDAY WANDA

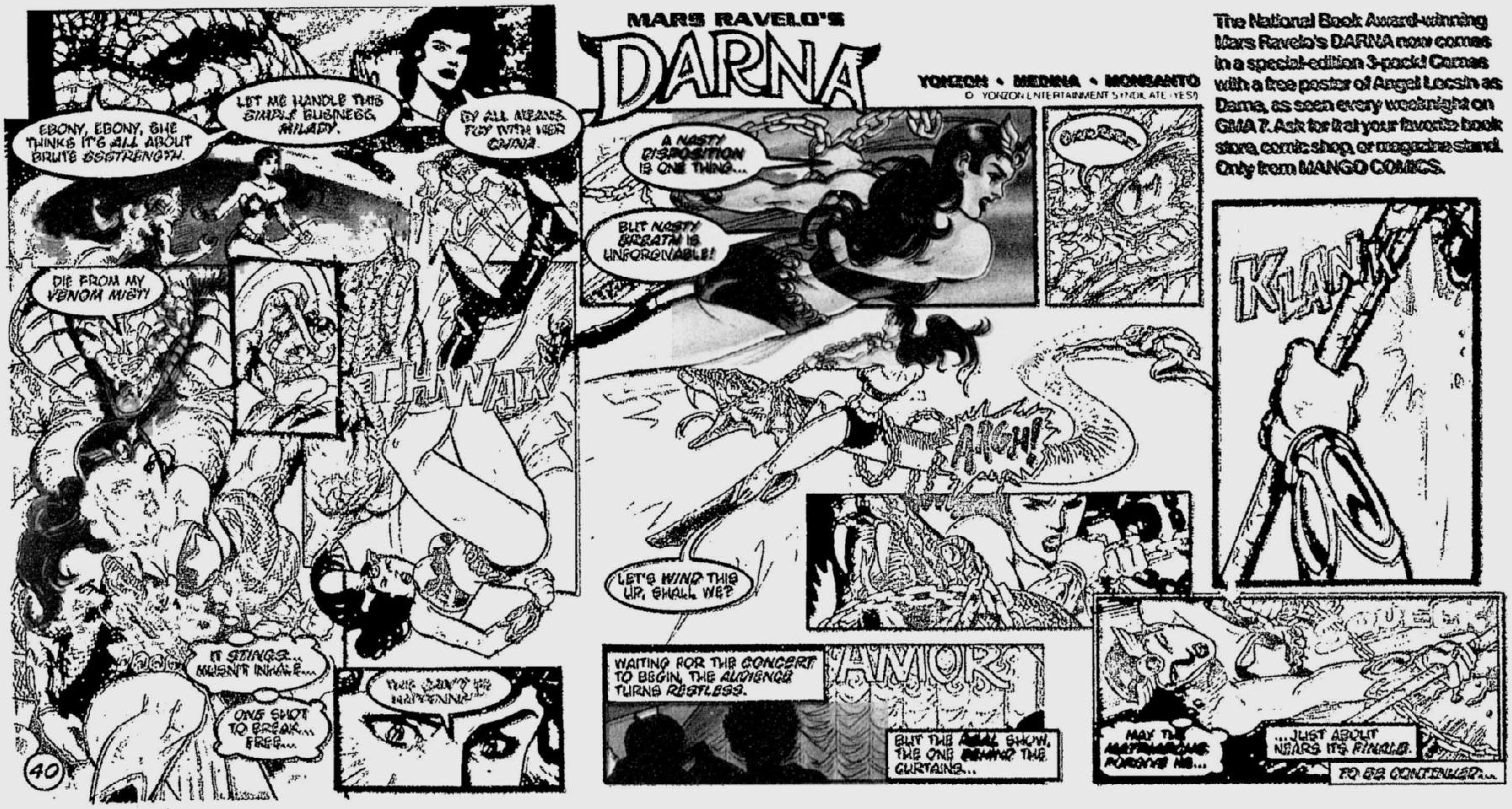
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


inday wanda
of the artform animation workshop
WOW! ANG DAMI 'KONG MAHALAGANG REALIZATION NGAYONG ARAW NA 'TO...
blog C. '05
'PAG CRUSH MO PALA ANG ISANG TAO, KINIKILIG KA 'PAG KATABI MO SYA. GUSTO MO SIYANG MAKAUSAP PARATI.
PAG LOVE MO NAMAN ANG ISANG TAO, TITIG PA LANG MASAYA KA NA! 'DI MO NA KAILANGAN NG MARAMING SALITA!
YUNG INFATUATION NAMAN, GUSTO MO NA BINABATI KA NIYA PARATI PARA KAYO NA KUNWARI!
....

A. FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

DARNA

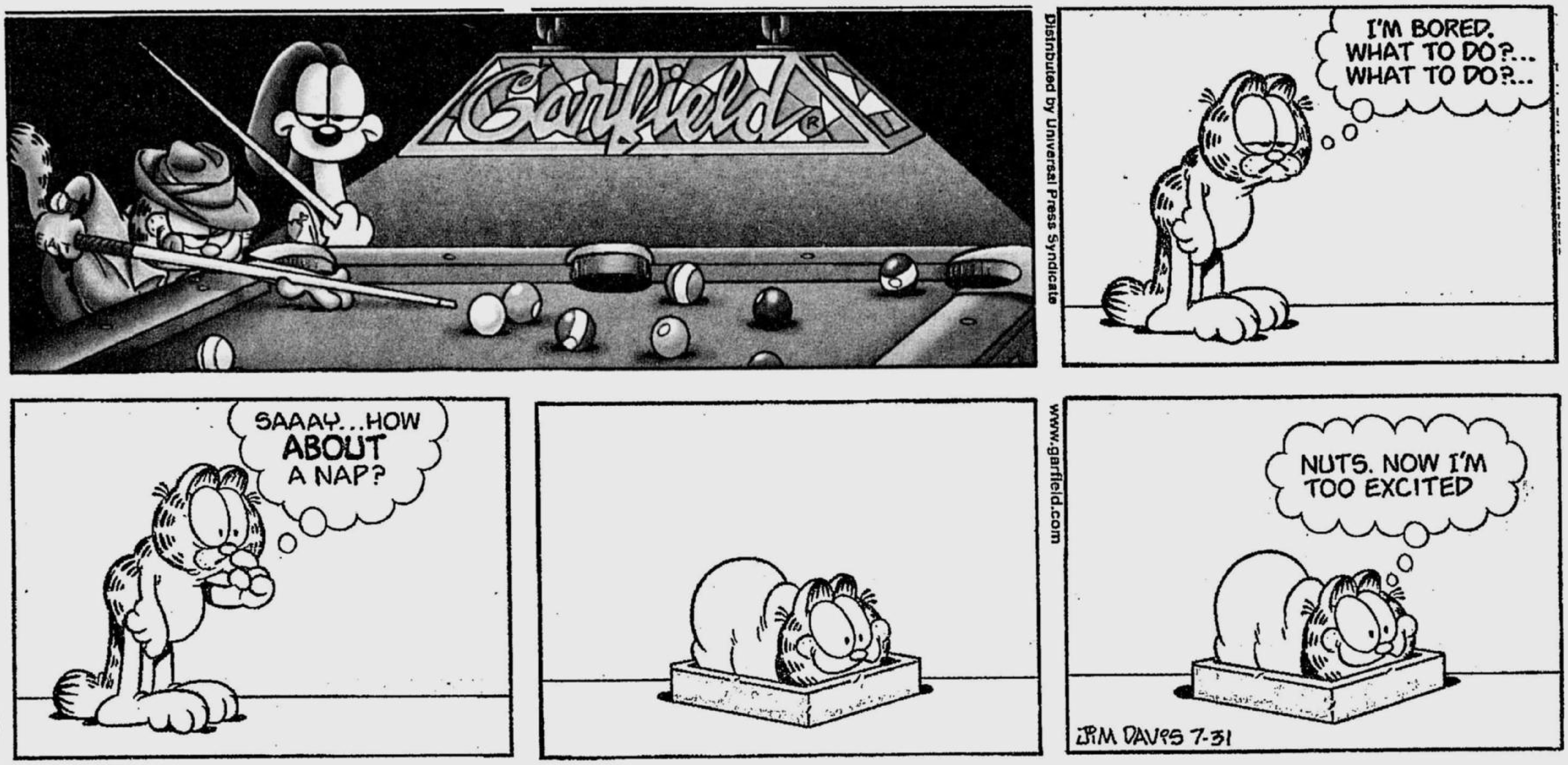
BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
YONZON • MEDINA • MONSANTO
© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES!)
EBONY, EBONY, SHE THINKS IT'S ALL ABOUT BRUTE SSSTRENGTH.
LET ME HANDLE THIS SIMPLE BUSINESS, MILADY.
BY ALL MEANS. TOY WITH HER QUINA.
A NASTY DISPOSITION IS ONE THING...
BUT NASTY BREATH IS UNFORGIVABLE!
GRRRRR
DIE FROM MY VENOM MIST!
THWAK
KLANK
AAGH!
LET'S WIND THIS UP, SHALL WE?
IT STINGS... MUSN'T INHALE...
ONE SHOT TO BREAK... FREE...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENIN'
WAITING FOR THE CONCERT TO BEGIN, THE AUDIENCE TURNS RESTLESS.
AMOR
BUT THE REAL SHOW, THE ONE BEHIND THE CURTAINS...
MAY THE MATRIARCHS FORGIVE ME...
...JUST ABOUT NEARS ITS FINALE.
TO BE CONTINUED...
40

The National Book Award-winning Mars Ravelo's DARNA now comes in a special-edition 3-pack! Comes with a free poster of Angel Locsin as Darna, as seen every weeknight on GMA 7. Ask for it at your favorite book store, comic shop, or magazine stand. Only from MANGO COMICS.

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


Garfield®
I'M BORED. WHAT TO DO?... WHAT TO DO?...
SAAAY...HOW ABOUT A NAP?
NUTS. NOW I'M TOO EXCITED
JIM DAVIS 7-31
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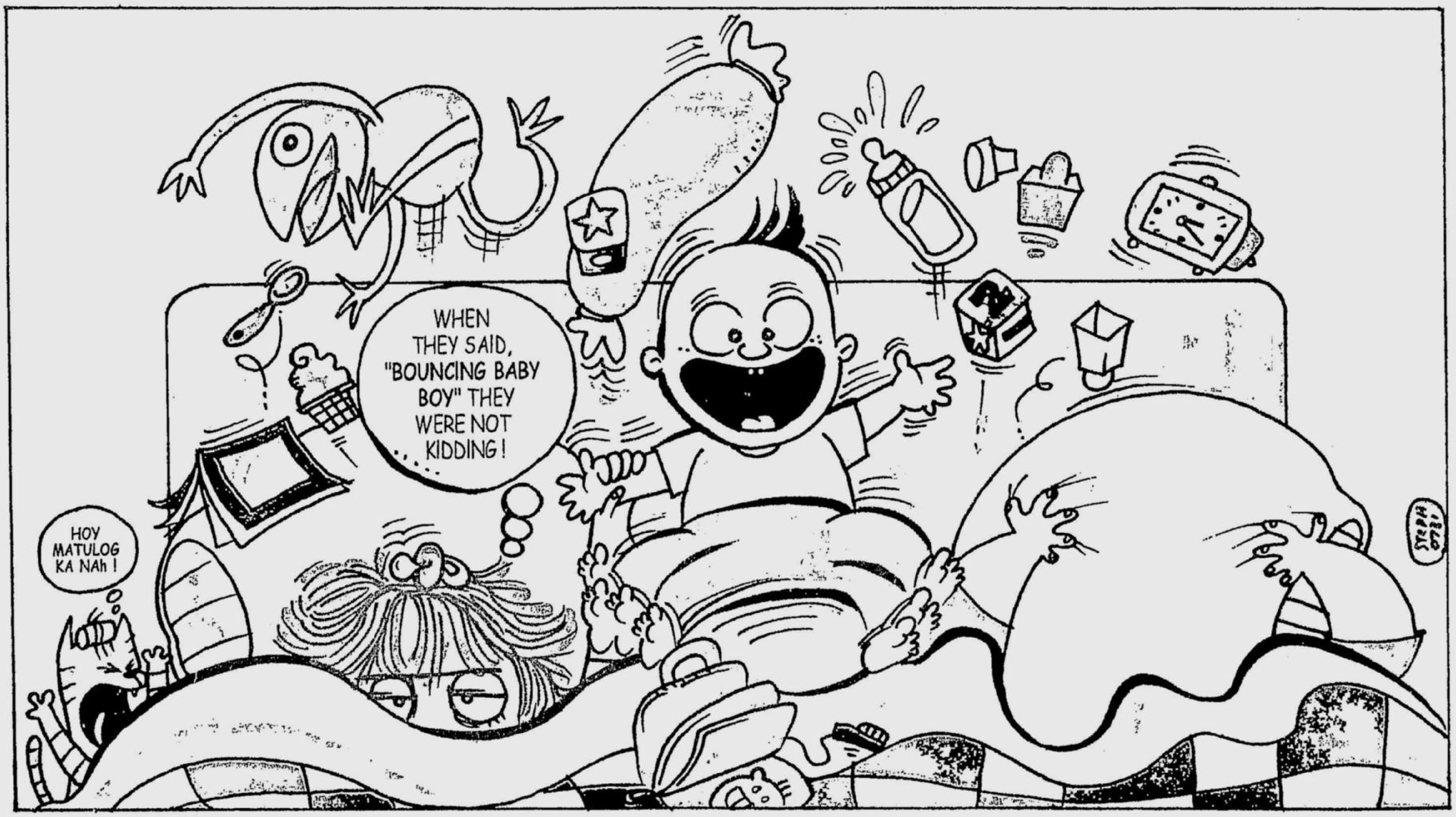
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


WHEN THEY SAID, "BOUNCING BABY BOY" THEY WERE NOT KIDDING!
HOY MATULOG KA NAh!
STEPH 07-31

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

Cheche Lazaro's new eyes

BROADCAST journalist Cheche Lazaro recently underwent corneal surgery in her failing right eye. Having initially chosen to keep the matter private, she has now come forward to share her personal journey to others, in support of the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign of the Eye Bank of the Philippines and Visine Refresh and in the hope that more people would become eye and cornea donors.

Cheche says that this is the least she can do for the generosity of the family of the young man whose cornea she has received. Here is her story, in her own words:

"When I was told that I needed a corneal transplant, my heart sank.

"The thought that someone would have to die in order for me to receive a cornea sent a chill through me. It took me a while, together with a lot of confidence-building and calm assurances from my doctor, to get used to the idea that I was waiting in line to receive a new cornea, and a chance to see clearly again. I was aware of organ transplants and organ donations from my work as a journalist but, this time, it was to be a personal experience I never imagined I would ever have to face.

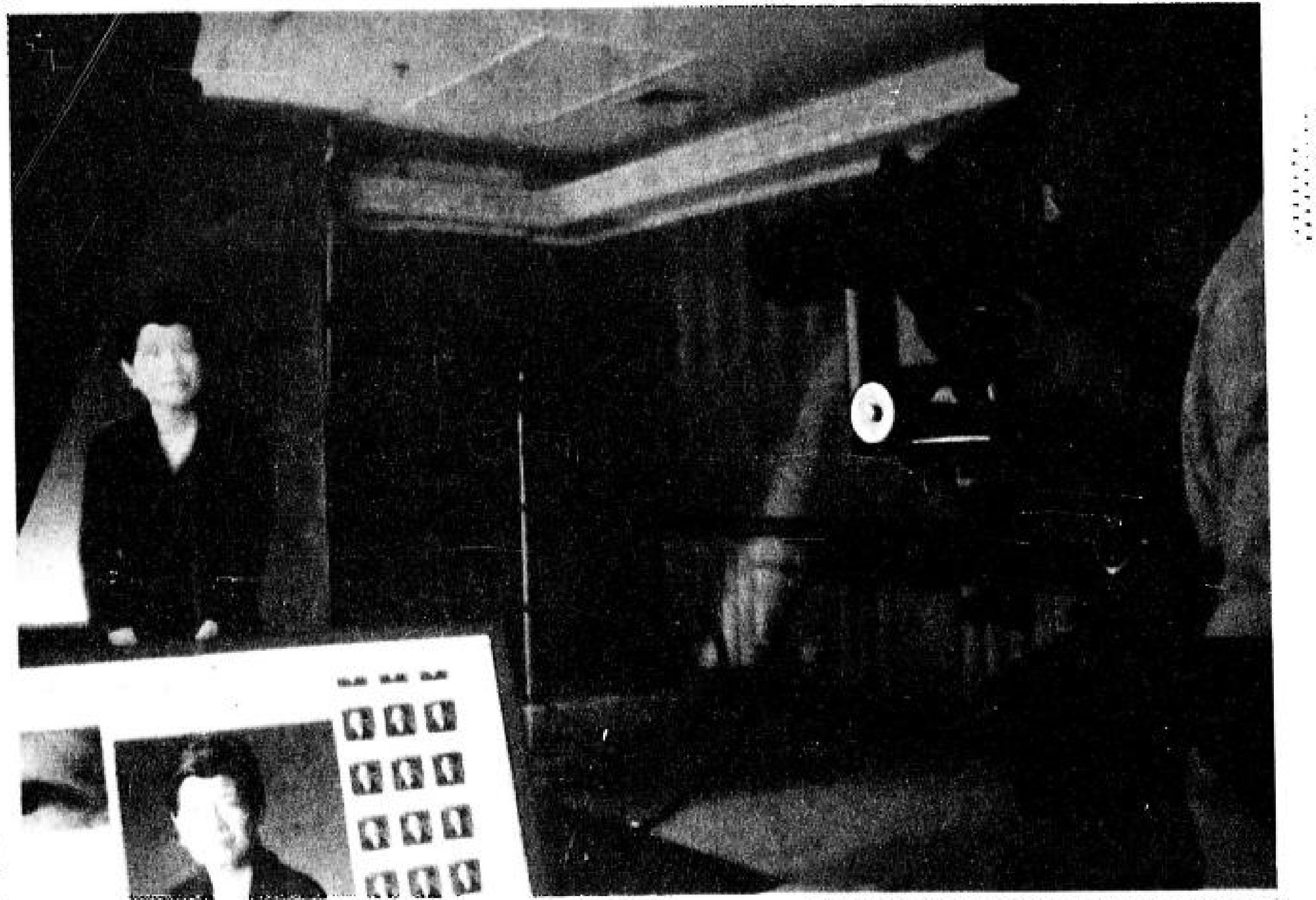
"It took close to four months of waiting and dreading the day when I got a call from my doctor telling me a cornea had become available and that we were proceeding with the transplant the very next day. My doctor told me my new cornea had come from a 24-year-old young man. Being a mother myself, my thoughts turned to the young man and to his parents who must have been in pain for the loss of a son so young and in the prime of his life.

"The transplant went well and the doctor asked me if I wanted to meet the family of my donor. I was hesitant and wanted to wait awhile before I did. Then, quite by accident, a friend told me who the donor was. It turned out that the donor's mother and I had worked together in the past, and we had remained friends throughout the years.

"My fear turned into an overwhelming desire to call her to express my deep gratitude for her son Cid's generosity. She too had no inkling that her son's cornea had gone to a friend. After our phone conversation, I received a text from her saying that knowing that her Cid's cornea had gone to a friend made it even more special, and the pain of loss more bearable.

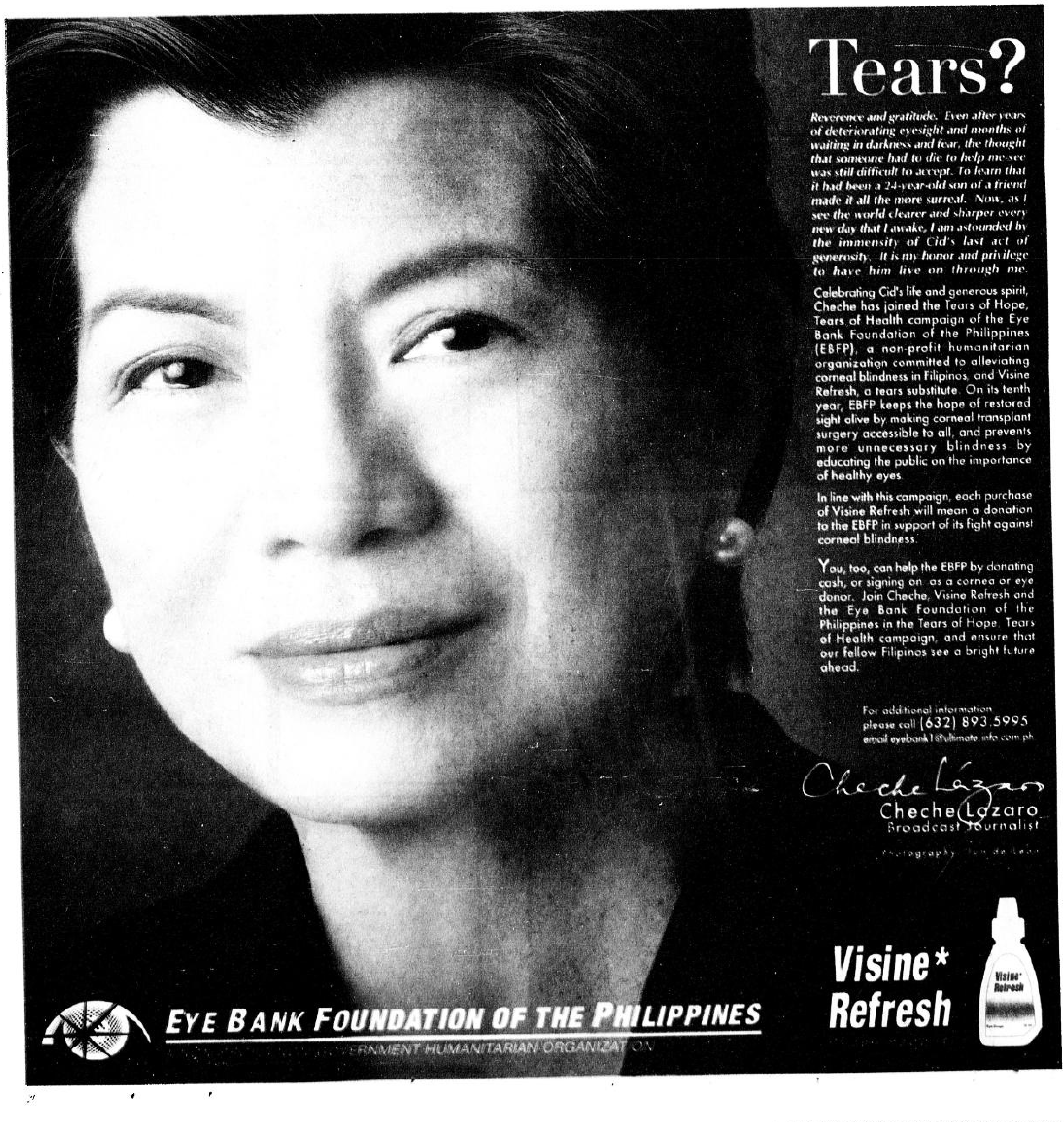
"What fills my heart is a deep sense of gratitude not only to my friend and her husband, but also to all those who give of themselves generously with the knowledge that in their passing, they give the gift of sight—something we are blessed with, often take for granted and never know the value of until we are about to lose it.

"Knowing what it feels like to have your vision blur and to be given the chance to see clearly again makes every single donor a true hero in the eyes of thankful recipients like me. Cid continues to live in my eye because of his last act of generosity."



CHECHE sitting for "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign photographer, endorser and cornea donor Jun de Leon less than a month after her transplant. Having taken measures to avoid straining her healing right eye, she surprised Jun and the campaign team with genuine tears soon after the shoot began.

"YOU should go; it gives tremendous comfort." Ali Sotto (2nd from left), mother of young cornea donor Miko Sotto, advised Cheche to visit the family of Cid, her cornea donor. Ali and Cheche met for the first time during Cheche's shoot for the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campaign. They were joined by 21-year-old Joy Ventura (leftmost) and 9-year-old Margie Peña (2nd from left), cornea recipients helped by the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines.



Tears?

Reverence and gratitude. Even after years of deteriorating eyesight and months of waiting in darkness and fear, the thought that someone had to die to help me see was still difficult to accept. To learn that it had been a 24-year-old son of a friend made it all the more surreal. Now, as I see the world clearer and sharper every new day that I awake, I am astounded by the immensity of Cid's last act of generosity. It is my honor and privilege to have him live on through me.

Celebrating Cid's life and generous spirit, Cheche has joined the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign of the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines (EBFP), a non-profit humanitarian organization committed to alleviating corneal blindness in Filipinos, and Visine Refresh, a tears substitute. On its tenth year, EBFP keeps the hope of restored sight alive by making corneal transplant surgery accessible to all, and prevents more unnecessary blindness by educating the public on the importance of healthy eyes.

In line with this campaign, each purchase of Visine Refresh will mean a donation to the EBFP in support of its fight against corneal blindness.

You, too, can help the EBFP by donating cash, or signing on as a cornea or eye donor. Join Cheche, Visine Refresh and the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines in the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign, and ensure that our fellow Filipinos see a bright future ahead.

For additional information
please call (632) 893.5995
email eyebank1@ultimate.info.com.ph

Cheche Lazaro
Cheche Lazaro
Broadcast Journalist

Photography Jun de Leon

Visine* Refresh

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES
ERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZAT

INQUIRER
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SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2005
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TeleTech is a leading global provider of customer management and business process outsourcing solutions. Established in the U.S. 23 years ago, TeleTech is headquartered in Denver, Colorado with a global network that extends across 68 customer management centers in North America, Asia-Pacific, Europe, and Latin America. In 2001, TeleTech began operations in the Philippines and since then we have built three centers in Fort Bonifacio, Pasay City, and the newest in Novaliches, Quezon City. Globally we support 32,000 employees, more than 3,000 of whom are in the Philippines.

Pasay City Facility
Customer Service Representatives

Technical Support CSR
Excellent reasoning ability
Can interpret technical instructions
Solutions Oriented

Airline Reservation CSR
Industry experience in airline reservation and travel discipline
Knowledgeable in the Apollo System

basic requirements
Graduate of any 4-year course • Strong command of the English Language
Flexible to work varied shifts • Customer Service focused
Computer literate with experience using Microsoft Office Products

Free TeleTech item to all August applicants who take the computer based tests at Pasay City.
We encourage walk-in applications for immediate processing

Robinsons Novaliches Facility

Customer Service Representatives> Multiple Inbound Accounts
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferred
- Must have at least 1 year of customer service, sales OR technical experience
- Previous experience in a shift work environment preferred.

Multi-lingual Customer Service Representatives
- Must be fluent in ANY of the following languages: Thai/ Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese)
- Must be familiar with the English Language.
- Graduate of any 4-year course preferred.
- Must have at least 1 year of customer service OR technical experience.

Team Leaders
- Minimum 1 years experience in call centre management role
- Shift management capabilities and ability to manage varying skills of employees
- Analytical ability to decipher statistical performance reports
- Superior customer service skills and strong multi-tasking and delegation skills

Product Trainers
- With experience in coaching and / or evaluating voice and accent and who have completed the full ACE course or equivalent
- Experienced facilitator who can implement program changes quickly and with a high degree of success
- Technical instructor in an Instructor-led classroom environment experience is required
- Supervisory experience preferred, preferably in a call center environment

Workforce Planning Manager
- Minimum 3 years experience in a Call Centre Industry
- Minimum 3 years experience in a workforce planning role or similar
- 5 years experience with Blue Pumpkin workforce management tool or equivalent,
- Experience with an advanced PABX, Call Management Systems, Spreadsheets, Forecasting and Scheduling systems

Quality Assurance Specialist
- 1-2 years experience in an equivalent role, preferably within a Tele-services, call center or telecommunications company
- Knowledge of basic database concepts. Eg. Microsoft Access
- Knowledge of Six Sigma, Total Quality Management and other quality concepts
- Understanding of call centre operations and telephone systems

Workforce Specialist
- Minimum 1-2 year experience in the Call Centre Industry
- College Graduate degree qualified, preferably in MIS, Business, Economics. Statistics or Mathematics
- Ability to comprehend and apply statistical analysis techniques to business requirements
- Strong mathematical ability and demonstrated ability to work in a disciplined manner to strict procedures

Senior Operations Manager
- Minimum 5 years leadership experience within a service driven or high tech corporation
- 4 years experience as a Manager in a high volume quality-driven contact center environment supporting voice, chat, and/or e-mail interactions.
- Knowledge / experience in call centre management
- Shift management capabilities and ability to manage varying skills of employees

Operations Manager
- Minimum 3 years leadership experience within a service driven or high tech corporation
- 2 years experience as a Manager in a high volume quality-driven contact center environment supporting voice, chat, and/or e-mail interactions
- Knowledge / experience in call centre management
- Shift management capabilities and ability to manage varying skills of employees

For Novaliches >
Visit us at 2/F, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quirino Highway corner Maligaya Road, Quezon City
Hotline: 552.97.25 or 552.97.99
Email: hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

For Pasay City >
Visit us at Building F, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, Bay City, Pasay City
Hotline: 552.9799 or 552.97.00.
Email: hrjobs_ph@teletech.com

TeleTech

All of TeleTech's facilities are equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology solutions that ensure high-quality interactions with our clients, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Our world-class centers feature well-equipped training rooms, sleeping lounges, a coffee shop, a game room, and a full-service cafeteria.

Find out more about us at www.teletech.com

MANAGERIAL

PEOPLE

OUR DRIVING FORCE

Our integrated logistics business is a truly Filipino brand that leverages our unsurpassed local knowledge from over a hundred years of experience in freight operations and a passion to consistently deliver both cargo and information on time.

We thrive on one culture – driving a nationwide work force of highly skilled and dedicated people with a passion to deliver on our promises. With a platform of information systems, we push real time shipping data and track deliveries to any point in the country, anytime.

OPPORTUNITIES IN LOGISTICS:

- Sales Manager – Seafreight
- Sales Manager – Airfreight
- Account Executives
- Telesales Representative

For on-line applications please visit our website:

www.2GO.com.ph

You may also submit your comprehensive resumés at:

Aboitiz Logistics Inc.
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MIASCOR Drive, NAIA Avenue
Parañaque City 1700

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an Aboitiz company

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HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

female; graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course; with 2 to 5 years experience in all facets of personnel management in the same capacity such as specialization either in timekeeping, compensation or benefits administration, recruitment and labor relations; must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization; with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; team-player, goal-oriented and able to work under pressure; must be computer literate

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. or send their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

SM Shoemart
SM Corporate Office
Bldg. D 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park
Bay City, Pasay City

or

Visit our Website : www.sm-shoemart.com
E-mail : Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

[illegible]

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Work as a **MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST** and earn a higher and flexible income based on your productivity

VOXSCRIPT INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION is providing FREE Comprehensive MT Training and guarantees sure employment to all training passers after 3 months training.

Apply now and submit the following:

1. Application letter
2. Comprehensive resume
3. Photocopy of transcript of records
4. 1 pc. 2x2 picture

Submit applications to Jo Asufra, Voxscript International office, 14th floor, Marc 2000 Tower, 1973 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila, Tel. No.400-6475

Qualifications:

1. Graduate of a 4-year course preferably Nursing or PT (with or without license) Medical Technology, dentistry and other medical allied courses; Graduate of English, Development Communications, Journalism and other English related courses.
2. Must pass the MT qualifying examinations (coverage on General I.Q. Test, English and Basic computer operations)
3. Willing to undergo 3 months MT training prior to employment.

Apply . . . . Be trained . . . . and Be HIRED!

WANTED

LICENSE PHARMACIST

FEMALE W/ OR W/OUT EXPERIENCE
SINGLE / COMPUTER LITERATE

Submit Resumé at:

2nd Flr. St. Patrick Square
#566 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 533-9060, 533-9061

WANTED

STRUCTURAL STEEL DETAILERS

APPLICANT MUST BE A RESIDENT OF TAYTAY, ANGONO, BINANGONAN, CAINTA, ANTIPOLO & PASIG

E-mail your resumé @
apacific@mozcom.com

SEND YOUR RESUMÉS INSTANTLY

Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB Market

PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

invites highly qualified candidates to apply for the following job vacancies:

POSITION / JOB SUMMARY	EXPERIENCE	SKILLS
SALES AND MARKETING OFFICER Conducts regular sales calls to ensure efficient coverage and maximum visibility in the market and "exploratory calls" on new accounts to maximize potential revenue. /Maintain updated Account File to ensure efficient references; gathers leads from local and international sources, analyzes data and recommends appropriate course of action. /Prepares Letters of Proposal and ensures repeat business by maintaining good working relationship with clients./ Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system./ Prepares the necessary materials for marketing presentations and activities.	Minimum of five (5) years of relevant experience from an event management company, hotel, tourism oriented organizations or other institutions engaged in sales and marketing for the Sales and Marketing Officer position and in organizing events for the Events Services Officer position, preferably three (3) years of which involves managing/ supervising personnel.	Good public relations and highly developed conceptual and communication skills, organized and analytical, able to handle tasks simulta-neously, willing to work long hours, and meet set deadlines. Highly proficient in MS Office.
EVENTS SERVICES OFFICER Coordinates specific requirements of events with other departments to ensure efficient delivery of service./ Ensures settlement of all financial obligations by the clients and proper and efficient ingress and egress of clients' equipment and properties. /Conducts briefing for clients and their contractors to ensure clarity and adherence to rules, regulations and policies. / Reviews estimates of charges as well as the final estimate of expenses to ensure proper billing to clients. / Prepares and explains contract provisions to clients and discusses provisions and obligations for their proper implementation. / Prepares Terminal Reports./ Ensures repeat business by maintaining good working relationship with clients./ Assists the Marketing Division in promoting facilities, packages and other programs thru client calls and blitzes. /Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace System.		
SALES AND MARKETING SPECIALIST Undertakes regular sales calls, maintains and ensures maximum productivity of accounts assigned and conduct "exploratory calls" on new accounts to maximize potential revenues./ Maintains an updated Account File Record to ensure efficient references./ Prepares Letters of Proposal to clients based on requirements of the latter and coordinates these requirements to the different departments as needed./ Assist in the preparation of necessary materials for marketing presentations and bid papers. / Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system.	Three (3) to four (4) years of relevant experience from an event management company, hotel or other institutions engaged in sales, marketing and events organization.	Good public relations, good oral and written communication skills, organized and disciplined, analytical, patient and persevering, able to handle multiple tasks simultaneously and meet set deadlines, willing to work long hours and during weekends and holidays if needed. Highly proficient in MS Office.
EVENTS SERVICES SPECIALIST Coordinates specific requirements of events with other departments to ensure efficient service to clients./ Ensures settlement of all financial obligations by clients and proper and efficient ingress and egress of clients' equipment and properties. /Conducts briefings for clients and their contractors to ensures clarity on rules, regulations and policies./ Reviews estimates of charges as well as the final estimate of expenses to ensure proper billing to clients./ Prepares and explains contract provisions to clients and discusses provisions and obligations for their proper implementation./ Prepares Terminal Reports./Assist in the implementation of the overall plans and programs of the Division./ Conducts ocular inspections of facilities for clients. /Ensures that clients adhere to policies, rules and regulations./ Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Account Status Trace system.		
SPECIAL EVENTS SPECIALIST Prepares project briefs for presentation. /Prepares budget requirement for approval by management. /Establishes and maintains contacts with service contractors/suppliers with regard to projects./ Prepares and submits periodic reports involving income and other benefits derived from projects. /Attends to the requirements of organized/initiated events. /Coordinates specific requirements with other departments. /Handles Computerized Ticketing Operating System used for events with "entrances fees". /Assist the Events Services Officer in handling booked events./ Assist in the public relations campaign to promote the Center's facilities, packages and programs thru client calls and sales blitzes. /Ensures smooth flow of operations by implementing an efficient Project Status Trace system.		
RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT Assists in accepting bookings, outlines and coordinates reservation requirements of clients./ Attends to all queries regarding availability of venues./ Assists in the review and verification of accuracy of entries in the Reservations Book. / Coordinates with Marketing Div., the list of tentative bookings for client calls and follow-ups. / Ensures that measures are taken and alternatives offered to clients to maintain their patronage. ./ Maintains an updated profile of all bookings and accounts. /Prepares Letters of Proposal to clients based on requirements of the latter and coordinates these requirements to the different sections. / Submits estimate of charges for rooms and facilities to clients./ Strictly observes set uniform Reservations and Account Status Trace system to ensure smooth flow of operations. /Assists the Sales and Marketing Specialist in the conduct of Familiarization Tours. / Receives incoming and outgoing communications and performs a variety of secretarial and clerical duties.		

EDUCATION REQUIREMENT FOR ALL POSITIONS:

Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and/or Mass Communication and/or Business Administration and/or Tourism or other fields related to the job.

For interested applicants, please mail your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture to c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer Box # KA-036-05-PC, Ground Flr., Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita or send thru e-mail to beth_balagat@yahoo.com

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ePLDT Call Centers

invite applicants for ...

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *College level of any course*
- ✓ *Excellent conversational English*
- ✓ *Highly motivated and with good orientation in customer service.*

TELESALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *College level of any course*
- ✓ *Excellent conversational English*
- ✓ *Must be good in handling tele-sales, assertive, persistent, resilient*

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVE

- ✓ *Preferably a graduate of any computer-related course*
- ✓ *Excellent conversational English*
- ✓ *Knowledgeable in computer software/hardware and/or peripherals*

We will be glad to see you on :

August 1 - 5, 2005
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

(Please bring your resume. Previous applicants need not apply.)

PLDT Building, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City

Visit us at our website www.pldt.com.ph
Or you may call 8-PLDTHR (8-753847)

Welcome to ICT Group.

IN LINE WITH OUR BUSINESS EXPANSION, WE ARE LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL CANDIDATES TO FILL IN THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

(Financial, Technical, Sales, Inbound, Multi-lingual Accounts)

- Preferably college graduate
- Excellent communication skills
- Willing to be assign in Makati or Ortigas
- Active listening skills
- Strong interpersonal skills

OPERATIONS DIRECTORS
OPERATIONS MANAGERS
SHIFT MANAGERS
QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGERS
MARKET RESEARCH SUPERVISORS
WORKFORCE ANALYSTS
FRENCH AND SPANISH SPEAKING REPS
TRAINERS
DATA ENTRY OPERATORS
GENERAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR

Submit your RESUMÉ ASAP to recruitingmanila@ictgroup.com

Or VISIT our RECRUITMENT CENTER
14TH Floor UnionBank Tower,
Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center Pasig
from Mondays thru Fridays, 9am to 5pm

For more information please call us at 8570305/8570308 to 10

PhilAmerican

Global Solutions, Inc.

Programmers & other IT Professionals

Attention: Davaoenos and Mindanaoans. We are seeking IT Professionals who want full-time, part-time, or freelance employment in **Davao City** (some telecommuting is also available). You will enjoy the exciting and rewarding challenge of working on various software projects for our customers in the **US and Europe**.

See our website for these positions and several other openings. Please apply if you have **at least two (2) years of recent IT experience and any IT related degree.**

- **Computer Programmers**
- **Web Designers/Developers**
- **Analyst/Team Leaders**
- **Project Estimators/Managers**
- **Manager of Systems and Programming**

Many of our customers need programmers who are experienced in current technology such as **Net, C#, Delphi, UML, Java (all editions), Python, PHP, etc.**

We are also seeking **Senior Managers** for several key positions within our start up organization, especially in the area of Marketing and IT, with at least 10 years of USA-based managerial experience.

Go to www.philamerican.com click on Employment, then click Current Openings, and follow the instructions.

MALAY-SPEAKING

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

A foreign branch of a British marketing company, based in San Fernando, Pampanga, urgently requires experienced Customer Service Representatives for its call center operations.

The successful candidates will ideally have call center experience, fluency in both English and Malay (both spoken and written), computer literate and possess a pleasing personality.

The company offers a competitive salary, excellent working conditions and relevant training will be provided.

Submit your resume and passport size photograph by mail to The Manager, Nexus Business Solutions PLC, 3rd Floor, Rongui Bldg., #1 McArthur Hi-way, Telabastagan, San Fernando, Pampanga or by e-mail to charlene.mallari@nexusplc.com no later than 20th August 2005.

Where you find the best.

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If you are **aggressive** and **confident** and have some sales experience or want to pursue a career in sales, please submit your resume', TOR and photo to PELAC, 9F EPCI Tower 2, Dela Costa cor. Makati Ave., Makati City. You may also send your resumé via e-mail at **Kathy-E.Yap@aig.com**

MANAGERIAL

SM ADVANTAGE

Come and join a dynamic, forward-looking company that offers the right mix of excitement, growth, and stability in your career!

Marketing Convergence, Inc., an affiliate of the SM Group, is the developer, operator and manager of what is now the biggest customer loyalty program in the country – SM Advantage. To help meet the demands of our rapidly increasing SM Advantage membership base, the company is in need of young, aggressive and highly competent professionals for the following positions:

Oracle Database Administrator

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- At least 1- 2 years working experience as an Oracle DBA
- Proficient in designing Oracle databases using star schema
- Proficient in both spoken and written English

IT Systems Administrator

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related courses
- At least 2 years working experience as a Systems Administrator
- Knowledgeable and experienced in Windows Based Servers, Red Hat Linux Servers, System back-up and recovery using Veritas
- Has intensive experience in setting up and managing Windows Domain Server and Linux Web Server using Apache
- Must be knowledgeable in implementing system and network access and security
- Must be experienced in implementing virus control
- Knowledgeable in TCP/IP data connectivity
- Preferably with background in implementing and managing PBX, IVRS Systems

Business Intelligence Developer/Analyst

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- At least 1 – 2 years working experience using Oracle SQL *Plus and PL/SQL
- Proficient in both spoken and written English
- Fast learner

Software Developer

- Bachelor's degree in Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- At least 1- 2 years working experience in developing VB 6 applications as a front-end for an Oracle RDBMS
- Proficient in both spoken and written English

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume with recent 2 x 2 photo and contact numbers to:

THE PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
MARKETING CONVERGENCE, INC.
Bldg. D SM Corporate Office
1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central
Business Park, Pasay City 1300

Or Email at:
admin.mci.ho@sm-shoemart

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URGENTLY NEEDS

DATA ENCODERS

Can type 35-50 wpm or 8000-10000 kph
Male, Female, Single
Not more than 35 yrs old
Experience an Advantage

MEGA DATA CORPORATION

Submit Resume, 2x2 Color Photo, SSS, TIN

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
MEGA-RMG3 Bldg., 667 Sgt. Bumatay St.,
Mandaluyong City

The leading supplier fo aggregates is urgently in need of top caliber individuals to fill-up the following positions:

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- Female
- Pleasing personality
- Graduate of any four year course with Accounting Background
- Three to five years experience as Secretary
- Excellent communication & interpersonal skills
- Proficient in use of computer

We also have other openings for various positions.

MARKETING MANAGER
QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER
COMPUTER PROGRAMMER
PROJECT ENGINEER
SAFETY INSPECTOR
ACCOUNTING CLERK-BILLING
ACCOUNTING CLERK-COST/FIXED ASSET
SECRETARY/CLERK
SERVICE DRIVER

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé, Transcript of Records, diploma, certificate of employment and 1x1 photo at:

888 Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City or at our plant office at Don Mariano Santos Ave., Brgy. San Isidro, Angono, Rizal. Tel. Nos. 651-3211 to 15.
You may also send your application at our e-mail address:
hrdcac@yahoo.com or hrd@concreteaggregatescorp.com

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corporate executive search, inc.

Our client, a leading global management consulting, technology services and outsourcing company is currently in need of:

300 TRAINEES

(For various entry-level positions in Business Process Outsourcing and IT)

Successful hires will undergo extensive training in IT or Business Process Outsourcing work and will be hired for **REGULAR employment**. This is a good opportunity for young professionals to learn cutting-edge, value-adding business skills.

Requirements:

- Fresh graduates of any course, particularly batch 2004 and 2005 graduates
- Male/Female, 21-28 years old
- Must be willing to work on a shifting schedule
- Must be willing to start immediately
- Possible areas of assignment are Makati, Mandaluyong (Pioneer), or Ortigas

As this is an urgent opening, interested applicants should apply in our office from *August 1 to 3, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon* at the:

Function Room, Deck
Medical Plaza Makati
Amorsolo cor Dela Rosa Streets,
Legaspi Village, Makati
(Behind Makati Medical Center)
Tel. # 750-61-38 to 40
Contact Persons: Mercy, Sheryll, or Jordan

Please bring two copies of your resume with a 2x2 colored picture.

COMPUTER PROJECT ASSISTANT

We are a Philippine corporation that undertakes work for international organizations.

We require the services of a computer project assistant. The successful applicant should have the following qualifications:

- Excellent written and verbal English
- Univeristy or college graduate preferably with Journalism or a Communication Arts Major in Writing degree.
- No basic computer skills necessary but they would certainly be an advantage.

Excellent benefits and working conditions are offered to the successful applicant. If you're interested in the above position, please write with details of your educational background and previous work experience.

Send to: **"Computer Project Assistant"**

Level 1, Unit 9, La Plaza Bldg. #38 Pres. Avenue
Teoville Subd.,East BF Homes, Parañaque City 1700
Fax Number: 8207923
Email Address:service@elitegrpmanage.com

Bureau Veritas the world leader International Service Group specializing in QHSE management (Quality, Health, Safety, Environmental & Social Accountability) with a network that covers 140 countries and includes 600 offices and laboratories.

A) Due to our growth in the Middle East Region Bureau Veritas is seeking the following positions:

1. Senior Plant Inspector Ref (Q/85/SPI/E&P/IDD-PHI)
   - Mechanical Engineering Degree
   - 10 years experience in Plant Inspection in Oil & Gas Industry.
   - CSWIP 3.1 minimum or equivalent.
   - Knowledge of API 510/580/581.
2. Plant Inspector Ref (Q/85/PI/E&P/IDD- PHI)
   - Same as above, with 5 years experience in Plant Inspection in Oil & Gas Industry.
3. Lifting Equipment Inspector Ref (Q/85/LEI/E&P/IDD- PHI)
   - Engineering Degree in Mechanical or Electromechanical Discipline.
   - Minimum 5-10 years experience in inspection or maintenance of "Lifting Equipment" onshore & offshore in oil and gas industry.
   - Familiar with International "Lifting Equipment" codes & standards for performing inspection & certification.
   - Certified by Lifting Equipment Engineers Association (LEEA) is preferred.
4. Lead Auditor Management System- Ref (Q/85/LA/E&P/IDD- PHI)
   - Relevant Degree with 10 years experience in auditing QHSE management systems to ISO 9000, 14000 and 18000. Experience in oil & gas industry is a must.

B) For our new Testing laboratories establishment in Saudi Arabia, Bureau Veritas is seeking the following position with relevant experience in:

- Electrical & Electronic Equipments & Apparatus
- Soft lines Textile material

1. Supervisor Engineers Ref (S/85/SE/CPD/ELE- PHI)
   - Chemical or Electrical degree
   - 5 years Experience in testing, lab standards and quality system, with a strong knowledge of electrical and textile tests and International Standards field
2. Lab Technician Ref (S/85/LT/CPD/ELE- PHI)
   - Degree / Diploma in Electrical, Chemical or Computer Science engineering
   - 3 to 5 years experience in electrical, telecom field, EMC testing and Chemical
   - The ability to tests, calibrates, and repairs electrical, mechanical, electromechanical, electronic measuring, recording, and indicating instruments.
3. Quality Manager Ref (S/85/QM/CPD/ELE- PHI)
   - Relevant Degree
   - 7 years experience at least 4 years shall be in quality management field and laboratory standards (ISO/IEC 17025) in particular.

All candidates must be computer literate & have excellent command of English Language.

Interested candidates are required to send their CV quoting the reference to: Email: hr.mer@ae.bureauveritas.com

Interviews will be held in Manila on 22nd-23rd August 2005, selected candidates will be offered an attractive international packages, performance incentive and excellent career progress opportunities

For More vacancies within the Middle East Region please visit our website: www.bureauveritas.ae
(About us → career opportunities → More→Current Vacancies→Email CV)

BUREAU VERITAS 1828

BUREAU VERITAS

FOR THE BENEFIT OF BUSINESS & PEOPLE

GOOD THINKING incorporated

We are one of the fastest growing marketing research companies in the Philippines. We are passionate about helping our clients make decisions through our market understanding and knowledge that are based on research information. We are inviting dynamic and self-driven individuals to join our team. Our immediate requirements are:

RESEARCH EXECUTIVES (for Quantitative)

☐ Male or female, less than 25 years old
☐ Graduate of Statistics, Mathematics, Economics, Sociology or Communications Research
☐ Familiar with data analysis in the field of marketing research
☐ Creative, passionate and enjoys working with numerical data
☐ Knowledgeable in computer applications such as Excel and PowerPoint, some statistical and data analysis softwares
☐ Must have a fun and happy disposition, is sociable and a good conversationalist
☐ Can immerse with people from all walks of life

RESEARCH EXECUTIVE (for Qualitative)

☐ MALE, between the ages of 25-35 years old
☐ Graduates of any Social Science course (preferably Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Behavioral Science)
☐ Can carry on discussions in fluent English and Tagalog (additional language/ dialects spoken more ideal)
☐ Previous experience in group moderation for research or HRD work is a definite plus
☐ Must have a fun and happy disposition, is sociable and a good conversationalist
☐ Can immerse with people from all walks of life
☐ Must have a knack for creative work and writing
☐ Knowledgeable in computer applications particularly PowerPoint and some desktop or design softwares

DESKTOP ASSISTANTS

☐ Male or female, less than 30 years old
☐ Graduates of any computer related course
☐ Expert in Word, Excel and PowerPoint; knowledge of other graphics design software is a plus
☐ Familiarity with report preparation and presentation, previous experience in a market research company is also a definite plus
☐ Personable, team player, flexible and self-starter

RECEPTIONIST

☐ Female
☐ Between the ages of 21-28 years old
☐ College Graduate (preferably from Tourism, HRM courses)
☐ Must have a fun and happy disposition, is sociable and a good conversationalist
☐ Computer literate (Word, Excel, some Powerpoint)
☐ Previous experience in secretarial work and PABX handling is a definite advantage
☐ Can carry on conversations in fluent English and Tagalog

Due to the very urgent nature of our requirements, qualified applicants are encouraged to send their applications with comprehensive resumé, academic records and photo to the address below before **August 10**.

Managing Director
GOODTHINKING RESEARCH INC.
2nd Floor, Goldloop Towers Condominium
JM Escriva St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax No: 687-1718 • E-mail: goodthinkers@gmail.com

IFC International Finance Corporation World Bank Group Asenso

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established the Assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises (IFC-Asenso) in the Philippines. IFC-Asenso, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, will have offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment.

IFC-Asenso is currently planning a seaweed sector initiative called SEAPlant.Net program that has been operating in Eastern Indonesia into the Southern Philippines under an Asian Development Bank -funded project focusing on the Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines – East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). The SEAPlant.Net initiative is looking to staff the following positions:

1. Business Development Officer (BDO)

Scope of the job: The BDO will be responsible for implementing the SEAPlant.Net program in the Southern Philippines following a similar methodology as that of the Eastern Indonesia program. Qualifications for this position include:

- Graduate qualification (preferably post-graduate) in geography, agriculture or life sciences;
- Practical work experience of working with fishing and coastal communities in a Southern Philippines setting;
- Knowledge of the sea plant sector essential;
- A proven ability to deliver practical training to farmer and coastal groups relating to production and business problems that they face;
- Strong interpersonal skills with a high level of written and oral presentation skills in English;
- Fluent English speaker, regional dialects relevant to the Southern Philippines a distinct advantage (e.g. Filipino, Tausug etc);
- A willingness to travel across the Philippines;
- An ability to work in a team to tight deadlines

2. Business Development Analyst (BDA)

Scope of the job: The BDA will be responsible for working with the BDO in implementing the SEAPlant.Net program, collecting baseline information for monitoring and evaluation purposes. Required skills include:

- Masters Degree (Preferred) in Agriculture – Economics or Marketing focus;
- Knowledge of data collection methods and analysis tools;
- 3-5 years working experience;
- Knowledge of the seaweed industry a distinct advantage;
- Good oral and written English skills with regional dialects a distinct advantage

3. Program Assistant (PA)

Scope of the job: The PA will be responsible for assisting the BDO and BDA implement the program and ensuring that program administrative documentation is complete and compliant with IFC-Asenso guidelines. A recent graduate in the field of fisheries or coastal resource management with high computer literacy skills and English language skills would be most suitable.

4. Team Assistant (TA)

Scope of the job: The TA will be responsible for assisting the BDO and PA implement the program from an administrative perspective, ensuring that office administration is kept up to date and that IFC-Asenso procedures are followed. Someone that has worked for an international NGO or donor-funded project with experience in administrative procedures would be most suitable.

The positions will be based in IFC-Asenso's office in Davao City, Mindanao. Women are encouraged to apply. Salary will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumes to AsensoHR@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on August 12, 2005. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information and full Terms of Reference for the BDO and PA positions, please visit www.ifc.org/pensa.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

IFC International Finance Corporation World Bank Group Asenso

The International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank, has established the Assistance to Small and Medium Enterprises (IFC-Asenso) in the Philippines. IFC-Asenso, with contributions from other bilateral and multi-lateral donors, will have offices in Manila and Davao, Mindanao. The program has a mandate to provide technical assistance to support the development of small and medium enterprises, particularly in Mindanao, initially in three key areas: access to finance, agribusiness linkages and business enabling environment. To start its operations, IFC-Asenso is currently seeking:

Country Coordinator (CC)

The Country Coordinator will establish and run IFC-Asenso, under the guidance and overall direction of the IFC Country Manager for the Philippines and the General Manager for the IFC-PENSA facility in Indonesia. The successful candidate will demonstrate:

- Experience of managing complex technical assistance programs outside the candidate's home country
- Ability to manage and prioritize several disparate tasks simultaneously with confidence and calm demeanor.
- Experience of living and working in a challenging multi-cultural/multi-ethnic environment and adaptability and sensitivity to local cultural, political and economic issues
- Ability to represent IFC at the highest levels of government and with donor organizations in the region
- Five years of practical emerging market work experience in SME or finance-related support programs, including technical assistance, training or local capacity development
- Demonstrated knowledge of SME issues and the World Bank Group's (and other similar and related agencies) experience and emerging approaches to dealing with the SME sector
- Post-graduate qualifications in finance/business or a related field

Program Manager – Access to Finance (PM ATF)

The Access to Finance Program Manager will initially establish and run a technical assistance program focusing on improving access to finance for SMEs, aimed at establishing and strengthening domestic financial agencies targeted at the SME sector. Qualifications are:

- Leadership, general management and people management skills
- Post-graduate qualifications in the area of finance or banking and membership in recognized professional associations.
- Extensive working experience in financial markets, with a particular focus on private sector SMEs
- A demonstrated knowledge of international 'best-practice' in respect of commercially profitable SME debt, leasing and equity financing
- High-level knowledge of non-traditional SME financial service products, such as credit bureaus, guarantee and other risk mitigation products
- Experience in designing, leading and participating in training, technical assistance and capacity-building ssignments
- Demonstrated experience in assessing technical and market issues associated with commercial investments and operations in the financial services sector

Program Manager – Agribusiness Linkages (PM-ABL)

The Agribusiness Program Manager will initially establish and run a technical assistance program focusing on the areas of seaweed and corn/maize/poultry to develop market opportunities for local people, particularly in Mindanao. Qualifications are:

- Academic qualifications in agriculture or other relevant fields
- 4-5 years of considerable practical emerging market work
- Ability to communicate ideas clearly, articulate issues and recommend solutions
- Ability to perform task management in a timely manner with limited supervision
- An understanding of development finance

Program Manager – Business Enabling Environment (PM-BEE)

The Program Manager (BEE) will establish and run a technical assistance program focusing on improving the enabling environment for SMEs in the Philippines. The qualifications are:

- Post-graduate qualifications in an appropriate discipline (such as development economics, law)
- Demonstrated capacity to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team environment
- Extensive working experience in the SME policy, legal and regulatory field in emerging markets with focus on high-impact activities

General requirements for the CC, PM-ATF, PM-ABL and PM BEE positions:

- Leadership, general and people management, and team building skills
- Extensive professional working and overseas experience (preferably in the region or developing countries); for PM-BEE also in the Philippines
- High level of written, especially proven ability in report writing, and oral presentation skills
- Fluent English and a working knowledge of Pilipino would be an advantage

Office Administrator and HR Coordinator (OA Manila)

The Office Administrator and HR Coordinator will assist the IFC-Asenso Country Coordinator with recruiting all local staff and will manage and oversee the work of all Manila-based administrative staff. The OA and HR Coordinator should have the following qualifications:

- Demonstrated managerial experience, the ability to quickly grasp the Bank's processes and a commensurate level of maturity in managing diverse office environments
- Superior leadership, team-building skills and recognized ability to coach and mentor staff. Ability to effectively address motivation, training and development issues relevant to office support team
- Demonstrated ability to consistently manage and deliver an agreed work program through efficient and effective planning, delegation, and oversight
- High degree of judgment and tact in handling sensitive and confidential material/issues
- Strong written communication skills to prepare/draft a variety of communications and ensure quality of written outputs
- Fluent in English and outstanding verbal communication and interpersonal skills
- Proven ability to work effectively in a team-oriented, multi-cultural environment and function as an effective team member in various groups, task forces, etc.

Senior Program Finance Officer

The Senior Program Finance Officer will be responsible for the overall financial administration and accounting practices of IFC-Asenso. Candidates should demonstrate the following attributes:

- Degree in Accounting or Finance with at least minimum 4 years IAS accounting experience in an international corporate setting
- Excellent knowledge in financial management and project accounting techniques
- Thorough knowledge of SAP and Microsoft Office applications
- Mature judgment and ability to work in a multi-cultural environment
- Strong written and oral communications skills; fluency in English is essential
- World Bank Group or Big 5 accounting experience is preferred

The positions will be based in IFC-Asenso's office in Manila, except for PM-ABL in Mindanao. Women are encouraged to apply. Salary will be commensurate to qualification and experience. Candidates are invited to send resumes to asensohr@ifc.org not later than the close of business hours on August 12, 2005. All applications will be treated with strictest confidence. For corporate information, please visit www.ifc.org.

Only short-listed candidates will be notified.

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Tasks include web site project management - planning, requirements analysis, development, deployment, and implementation: system design and analysis; OOP; development of dynamic web applications on LAMP & WAMP platform with internal and 3rd party data integration, syndication and manipulation via web services (XML, RSS); peer code review and documentation. Self starter and team player

Qualifications:

- Computer Science/Programming degree or related discipline. Undergrad or Non Com Sci with 3 yrs experience.
- Minimum of 2 years experience using PHP/MySQL CMS's. Solid command of LAMP/WAMP devt platforms.
- Solid experience with MySQL database.
- Mastery of XHTML and JavaScript.
- Advanced knowledge of Apache web server
- Knowledge of XML/RSS a PLUS.

JUNIOR WEB MASTER/DESIGNER (CODE: Web Des)

Qualifications:

- 2 years experience with design of web sites using dynamic, template-driven PHP/MySQL content management systems.
- Exceptional Graphical User Interface (GUI) design, navigation systems and information structures.
- Solid HTML, XHTML and CSS skills for W3 compliance.
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- 2 years experience with brand, strategy and content development for the Internet, e. g. web sites.
- Solid Windows-based computer skills (browsers, MS Office, HTML).
- A degree related to, or solid experience in, Marketing and IT.
- Solid grasp of online marketing concepts such as Search Engine Marketing (SEO, Directories), e-mail, mobile marketing, CRM, direct marketing, advertising and promotions, loyalty systems.
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- Proficient in MS Word & Excel; Knowledge in Warehouse Management System an advantage

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- Proficient in MS Word, Excel & Powerpoint
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- Male or Female, 25-35 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- W/ at least 2 years experience in compliance & operations audit
- W/ unquestionable integrity, strong decision-making & oral/written communication skills
- Proficient in MS Word and MS Excel

Operations Audit Staff

- Male or Female, 22-29 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- W/ experience in compliance & operations audit
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IT Staff

- Male or Female, 21-29 years old
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Part-time position, Shall be responsible for property/ equipment maintenance, security, assets disposal

- Male, not more than 40 years old
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- Male, 22-35 years old
- At least 2nd year College level
- With valid driver's license
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- At least 5'7" tall
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- Experience in warehouse, distribution company or supermarket an advantage

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- Male, 22-30 years old
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Canadian Center for Immigration Services
Go To Canada

The Leader in Amusement Rides Manufacturing urgently needs the following personnel to compliment its expansion:

DESIGNER / ARCHITECT

- Male or female at least 21 years old
- Degree in Architecture / Interior Design
- Proficient in CAD/3D Max/Corel/ Photoshop/MS Office
- Knows how to prepare cost estimates
- At least 2 years experience from a manufacturing company an added advantage

(Please bring your portfolio, if any)

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER

- Female, with pleasing personality
- Degree in Marketing/Any Business Course
- Proficient in computer operations
- Knows how to prepare marketing plan, sales proposals, project presentations and the like.
- At least 2 years experience in sales and marketing an added advantage

Please submit updated resumé,
Transcript of Records & photo to:
WESTECH INTERNATIONAL PHILS., INC.
No. 2 Lanete Street corner Narig Street,
Veteran's Village
Project 7, Quezon City
Telephone : 372-8701 to 03
or email us at "westech@pldtdsl.net"

A YOUNG & DYNAMIC Q.C. BASED WEDDING VIDEO COMPANY IS IN NEED OF A

VIDEO EDITOR

- must be proficient in Adobe Premier with a working knowledge of Adobe Photoshop
- New graduates and part-timers are welcome to apply.
- Attractive compensation package

E-mail your resumé to
jobs@tagakuwento.com

JOB OPENING!!!
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES / MANAGERS

College Graduate
M/F Single/Married
Apply at 6th Flr.
128 Vernida IV Bldg. L.P. Leviste St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
(back of PBCOM TOWER & in front of Makati Sports Club)
"Clip this ad to your resumé"
Look for Ms. Isidro

MANAGERIAL

The Leader in Web Accessed Power Monitoring based in Alabang urgently needs:

NIGHT TIME SALES ENGINEER

With minimum of 5 years solid experience in Industrial Sales; Not more than 40 years old
Must be fluent in English
Electrical Engineering Graduate

OVERNIGHT PROGRAMMER

Degree in Computer Science
More than 5 years experience with SQL Server, VB and/or Microsoft Access
Must have a solid background in Manufacturing system design, MRP's specific to electronics
Must be a holder of US VISA

ELECTRONIC ENGINEER

Must have at least 5 years experience in Embedded System using 8051S and/or MOTOROLA DSP
Capable of digital / analog board design

Please send your resumé w/ picture & Transcript of Records to: elgadmin@pldtdsl.net
Pls. indicate position applied for:

ELECTRO INDUSTRIES / GAUGETECH
Rm 401, Southgate Bldg., Finance Drive,
Madrigal Business Park, Ayala-Alabang,
Muntinlupa City, 1780
DO NOT SEND REGISTERED MAILS

WANTED IN A TIN CAN MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Quality Validator/Production Quality Inspector
- Chemical/Industrial Eng'r grad., Food Tech grad
- Preferably male, 20-29 yrs old
- Preferably with tin can manufacturing experience

Printer Operator/Operator Mechanic
- Mechanical Eng'r grad
- Preferably w/ experience in lithography of printing press operation (for printer operator)
- Male: 20-29 yrs old

Document Control Office Clerk
- Male or female; 19-29 yrs old
- Has knowledge in computer operator; MS Office literate
- Preferably an IT graduate

Note : For all above positions, candidates must be willing to be assigned in Cabuyao, Laguna.

Submit resumé/bio data, transcript of records, 2x2 picture to:
#2 San Lucas St., Bo. Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Tel 631-9995/631-8566

PERIDOT INTERNATIONAL RESOURCES INC.
POEA Lic. No. 363-LB-072502-R
Website: www.info.com.ph/~peridot1
Unit A 1845 Dian St. cor. Boyle St.,
Palanan, Makati Tel. 5527826/27; 8333170

SAUDI ARABIA

AL HOKAIR (Reg. 10068695)
URGENT - With READY VISA

ARCHITECTS (20) –at least 7-10 yrs.exp.; proficient in AutoCAD 2004; Photoshop Adobe skills is an advantage; must have exp. in large commercial projects.

PROJECT ARCHITECTS (20) – Must be team leader with excellent organizational skills, AutoCAD proficient; able to develop concept design through to full working drawings; coordination exp. on large steel & pre-cast buildings is essential; at least 10 yrs. exp.; excellent freehand & presentation skills.

JD EDWARDS SPECIALIST – Accounting grad. or any course as long as w/solid exp. not only in using but also in technical know how of JD EDWARDS software program.

HVAC TECH. (06)
PLUMBER (04)
CARPENTER (02)
ELECTRICAL TECH. (04)
BLDG. PAINTER (02)
BMS TECH. (02)

Above categories must have at least 5-7 yrs exp. in maintenance company

HOUSEMAID (02) – for the comp. Mgr.; 30-35 yrs old; can speak English

REMAL AL SAWAHEL (Reg. 10008422)
URGENT - With READY VISA
TO LEAVE WITHIN JULY

CLEANING SUPERVISOR (05)
STOREKEEPER/CLERK (02)

Must have an exp. in Maintenance Co.; not more than 40 yrs.old; For Maintenance of malls, bldgs, offices

ADVANCE PHYSICAL THERAPY TECHNIQUES CENTER
(Reg. No. 10013615)

PHYSICAL THERAPISTS (06) – 1-5 yrs exp.; must be Registered PT: between 25-30 yrs old.

QATAR

KETTANEH CONSTRUCTION W.L.L. (URGENT)

SITE ENGINEER (02)
LAND SURVEYOR (02)

Above categories must have at least 10 yrs. exp. on high rise bldgs.; preferably w/Gulf exp. (High Caliber Engrs.)

FINISHING CARPENTER (40)
MASON (40)
ELECTRICIAN (15)
MECHANIC (04)
PLUMBER (04)
TOWER CRANE OPERATOR (20)
EQUIPMENT OPERATOR (08)
HEAVY DUTY DRIVER (12)

Above categories must have at least 7-10 yrs. exp; not more than 45 yrs. old; ex-gulf is an edge.

AL JABER TRADING & CONTRACTING CO. W.L.L.
(Reg. No. 1004578) URGENT

PLANNING ENGINEER (02)
QUANTITY SURVEYOR (04)
SAFETY OFFICERS (10)

Above categories must have at least 5 yrs exp in high rise bldg & Primavera; not over 45 yrs old.

Please submit personally 3 sets of the following: Latest detailed resumé employment cert., passport, diploma, Training/seminar cert., NBI cert. and 4 pcs. 2x2 colored pictures & diskette w/your resume on or before 01 August 2005.

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

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ecode

Assistant System Administrator/ Application Developer

- Graduate of B.S Computer Engineering, Computer Science, or any related course
- With at least one (1) year work experience in Systems and/or Network Administration
- Must have a working experience on Linux and Windows 2003 server
- Experience in PC/Networking troubleshooting.
- Must be proficient on .Net (VB/ASP) programming.
- With a working knowledge on Phyton, PHP, Perl or Java will be an advantage
- Proficient in reports generation using Crystal reportsv.8.5/v.10
- Excellent written and oral communications skills.
- Can work independently with less supervision, as well as within a team.

Operations Manager

Job Description:
The candidate will have overall responsibility for managing the smooth flow of operations of a team of billing specialists, particularly in meeting clients' expectations. This position leads a team of shift supervisors to ensure that all training and development needs of the operations staff are met. He/she shall, likewise, oversee the activities of the other depts. in the company including Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. It requires graveyard shift schedule,

Qualifications:
2-5 years managerial experience pref. in a medical transcription/ call center company. Excellent leadership, highly analytical and with good problem-solving skills. Able to operate independently and in consultation with top management. Highly proficient in software applications (Excel, Access).

Interested applicants can send their updated resumé at recruitment@ecode.com.ph

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Rustan's

urgently needs...

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Certified Public Accountant and must have knowledge in Financial Accounting, Financial Planning & Control, Reconciliation, Budgeting and other related functions in a managerial capacity
- Must have at least 3 years work experience from manufacturing or retail industries
- Must be willing to work long hours
- Highly proficient in computer applications

TREASURY MANAGER

- Graduate of business related course, preferably with MBA
- Computer literate and must have knowledge in risk management, corporate cash management,budget and financial analysis
- Must have at least 4 years work experience in Treasury from manufacturing or retail industries

DATA INTEGRITY & INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER

- Graduate of Accounting or Industrial Engineering
- Must have at least 2 years managerial experience from manufacturing or retail industries with background in Inventory Accounting in a computerized environment
- Highly proficient in computer applications and familiar with JDA,EIS,Platinum Systems

CREDIT & COLLECTION SUPERVISOR
FMS SUPERVISOR

- Between 25 to 35 years old
- College Degree in Finance, Accounting, Economic or Business Administration, preferably with Master's Degree
- At least two (2) years Supervisorial capacity in credit evaluation and receivables collection
- Must be knowledgeable in risk management, corporate cash management, budget and financial analysis
- Must be highly effective with customers interpersonally and possesses analytical and administrative skills
- Must be computer literate and efficient

HR ASSISTANT FOR CEBU

- Female, between 23-30 years old
- College degree in Behavioral Science
- At least 3 years experience in all facets of HR
- With decision making and process improvement skills

GRAPHIC SUPERVISOR

- Male, at least 25 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts or Advertising
- With 3 to 5 years work experience as Graphics Illustrator/ Designer and Digital Printing
- Proficient in Corel, Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop & Freehand computer softwares
- Must have good communication, creativity and interpersonal skills
- Preferably with suppliers contacts
- Portfolio of past work required

PROJECT ASSISTANT

- Engineering, Interior Design or Architecture graduate
- At least 2 years experience with background in Interior Design
- Computer Literate, Knowledgeable of Autocad
- With good communication, analytical, problem solving, coordination and basic management skills

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resumé to:

RUSTAN COMMERCIAL CORPORATION
Human Resources & Organizational Development Division
G/F El Mercasol Bldg., EDSA, Mandaluyong City
Or email to: jrsilvestre@rustans.com.ph

EMISSARY RECRUITMENT GROUP, INC.
POEA LICENSE NO. 403-LB-072604-R
Unit 9 G/F, Tower B, The Royal Plaza, 648 Remedios St., Malate, Manila
Tel.#: 3033523 to 24 Fax #:3023959

BADER H. AL HUSSAINI & SONS CO.
(For Trad. And Cont.)
P.O. Box 481 Al Khobar 31952 Saudi Arabia

AC TECHNICIAN CENTRALIZED (25) – at least high school graduate or with 2 year technical college diploma in air conditioning and refrigeration; 8 years working experience in trouble-shooting on HVAC systems; preferably first timers

BIO MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN (5) – 7 years working experience in specializing electrical, electronics, mechanical or instrumentation. At least 3 years experience associated specifically with hospital electronic and bio-medical equipment.

HVAC MECHANICAL ENGINEER (10) – Mechanical Engineering graduate with 7 years experience in supervision of HVAC System installations, full conversant with Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRE). With driver's license.

PIPE WELDER (3) – Secondary education and full apprenticeship training in metal mechanic trade. 5 years experience. Knowledge of welding (gas and ARC)

SHEET METAL FABRICATOR (4) – 5 years experience in pipe fitting, metal fabrication and installation

STRUCTURAL FABRICATORS (3) – 5-7 years expereince in structural fabrication in construction

MACHINIST (2) – 5 years experience in loading/unloading, repair and assemble of Hot Tap and stopple equipment, sandblasting and painting equipment and valves.

CIVIL ENGINEER (15) – 5 to 8 years experience in building construction/ maintenance; knowledge in American codes and design practice; w/ auto cad; w/ driver's license.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER (12) – 5 to 8 years experience in electrical construction and maintenance, sufficient experience in planning, programming and estimating electrical projects; w/ auto cad, w/ driver's license.

CONSULTATIVE POLYCLINIC – RADIO DIAGNOSTIC CENTER
Madina Road P.O. Box 30099, Jeddah 21477 Saudi Arabia

RADIOLOGIST (1) – Female; consultant level; at least 4 years experience after getting the postgraduate qualification, well-trained in different radiological modalities.

RADIOLOGIST TECHNICIAN (3) – Female; well-trained in Computerized Tomography, Ultrasonography and Mammography, minimum 3 years hospital experience.

Requirements: 2 sets of resumé with photocopies of employment certificate, passport, NBI Clearance and School Credentials; 4 pieces 2x2 pictures.

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BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

A fast growing Industrial Coatings Manufacturer has an immediate opening for the position of:

CHEMIST

- Graduate of BS Chemistry/BS Chemical Engineering
- M/F between 20-28 years old
- Working knowledge of coatings technology preferred but not required
- Must be a self-starter and possess leadership ability
- Good scholastic record and computer literate
- Effective oral and written communication skills

Interested parties may submit their resumé with 2x2 photo and photocopies of transcript of records/diploma to Box No. 300 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor Building B, SM Megamall

visit us at www.jobmarketonline.com

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Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

GREAT JOBS FOR A GREAT TEAM!
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HEALTH AND SAFETY ENGINEERS / OFFICERS

> Male or Female ; 30 years old and up
> College graduate
> Experienced Health and Safety Officers in a manufacturing set-up
> License on Safety and Health Officer is a must
> With strong Management and Leadership skills

TAX SPECIALISTS / CPAs

> Male or Female ; 22 to 28 years old
> BS Accountancy Graduate ; must be a CPA
> Preferably with 2 years experience in an Auditing Firm
> Possesses excellent communication / presentation skills

COMPANY NURSES / PLANT NURSES (R.N.)

> Male or Female ; 21 to 30 years old
> Must be willing to be based in Sta. Maria, Bulacan (for Plant Nurses only)

Note: Fresh graduates are welcome

RECRUITMENT ASSISTANTS

> Female ; 21 to 25 years old
> Graduate of BS / AB Psychology or Behavioral Science
> Experience not required but would be an advantage
> Proficient in English communication, both verbal and written
> Computer literate

INTERESTED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ WITH PICTURE AND T.O.R. (IF AVAILABLE) TO:
CORPORATE RECRUITMENT OFFICE
(BATTERY GROUP)
RAMCAR CENTER
80 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Or Email: **ebmuscat@motolite.com**

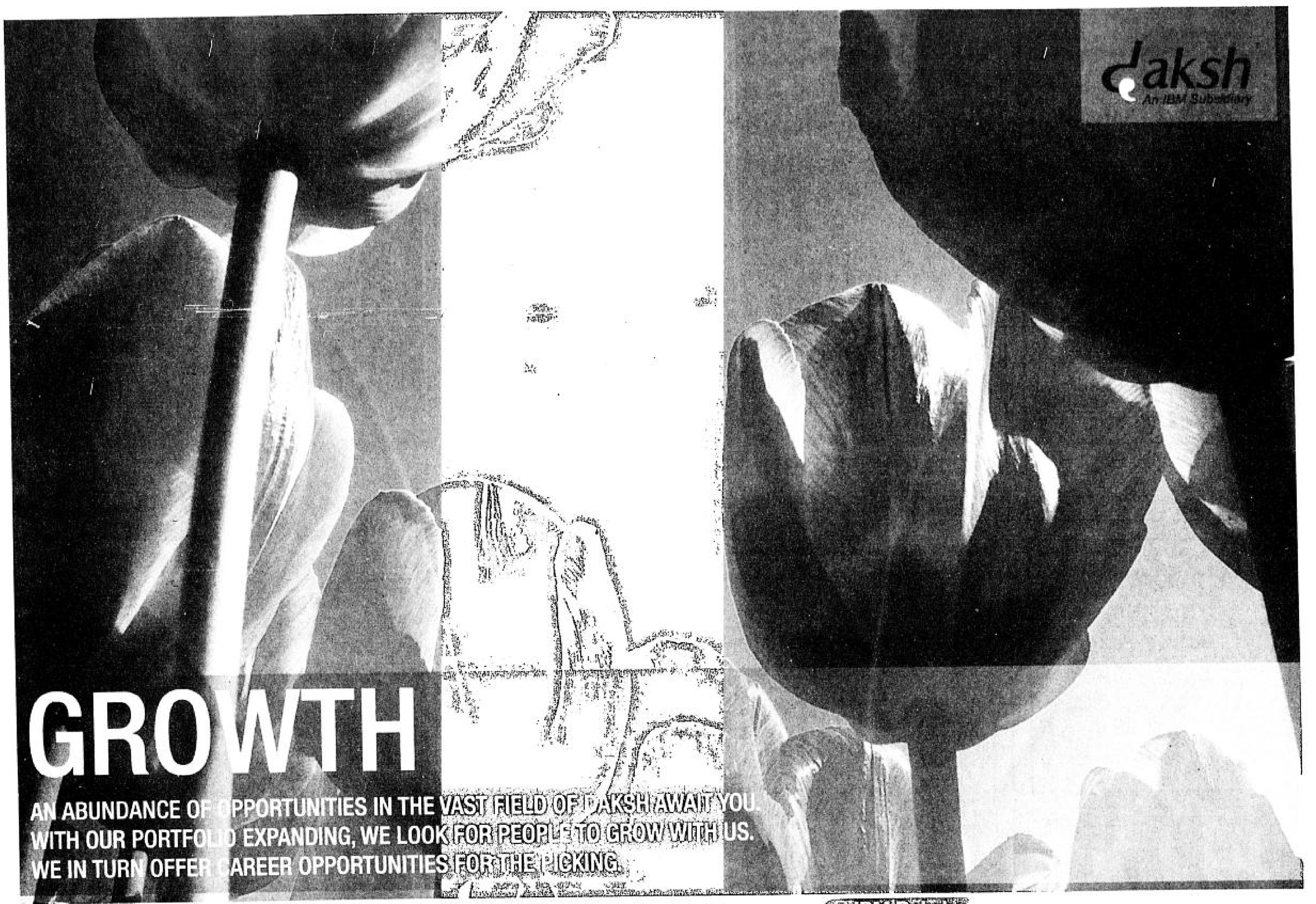
The best companies need the best people.

JOB Market ONLINE

PRODUCTION FOREMAN/MANAGER
PROJECT ESTIMATOR
- Male, 28-35 years old
- Graduate of BSIE or BSCE or ARCHITECTURE (preference for board passers)
- Good command in oral and written English
- Experience in plant operation and production management
- Can work under time pressure and on simultaneous projects with deadline

Bring resumé at: CENTREX CORPORATION
106 Pilar St. cor. Shaw blvd.
Mandaluyong city
Tel. No.: 726-6931 to 35
c/o Ms. Narlita M. Canilao

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL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Customer Care Specialists

Fortune 500 Telecommunications Giant

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- English
Operations Managers
Team Leaders
Quality Assurance Leaders
Quality Assurance Specialists
Workforce Management Leaders
Workforce Management Specialists
Product Trainers
Voice and Accent Trainers
Technical Support Engineer
Software Specialist

Other Business Unit Positions

Customer Care Specialist
- Mandarin and Cantonese
Senior Recruitment Associates
Recruitment Associates
Compensation and Benefits Associate

Call Center experience in the travel and telecommunication industry is a must.

IBM Daksh Career Tour

32/F PBCom Tower Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Open House 9 AM - 8 PM Mondays - Saturdays
135-B Rizal Street Lapus, Iloilo City	August 2 - 11 8 AM - 5PM
Kauturan Foundation, Inc. GM Cordova Ave. Mt. View Subdivision Mandalagan, Bacolod	August 6 - 12 8 AM - 5PM

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32/F PBCom Tower Ayala Avenue,
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Email us: applications@daksh.com
or visit our website: www.daksh.com.ph

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Be a full-time Sales Finance Partner with basic salary plus commission, allowances, and other benefits! Be trained by hands-on sales practitioners and gain valuable experience in a bank-affiliated organization!

Qualifications:
- Graduate of a 4-year course with good scholastic records
- Sales driven, able and willing to do field work
- With pleasing personality and good moral character
- Experience in consumer sales/banking is an advantage
- Not more than 35 years old

Send your resume with a recent 2x2 photo to:
Unit 50[illegible] Pearlbank Center, 146 V[illegible] St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
[illegible] 7518332 / 8334 [illegible]
[illegible] hr@checkplus.com.ph

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

Position: Events Marketing Assistant

- Who can apply:
  - Not more than 35 years old
  - College graduate, preferably with a degree in Communications
  - Computer literate
  - Background in Customer Relations is an advantage
- We offer:
  - Above standard salary package
  - Commission / Incentives
  - Travel priveledges outside Metro Manila

Please submit a comprehensive resumé with 2 x 2 colored ID Picture to:

UNITREX
Unit 806 City and Land Megaplaza Condominium
ADB Ave., Ortigas Center,
Pasig City (at the back of Robinsons Galleria)

WANTED

AUTOCADD OPERATOR
FIELD SUPERVISOR

- Pref. Architecture Graduate
- With 2 years experience in Fit-Out Works
- Resumé with Picture
- NBI Clearance

Apply or call at: Look for Rhemy
FAREAL Builders
3rd Floor, TNC Bldg. # 76 Anonas St.,
Project 2, Quezon City
922-1206 / 433-4670

MOOG

We are an organization based in the state of New York U.S.A., a recognized world leader in the design and manufacture of high performance precision control systems for commercial aviation and industrial use. Our manufacturing facility at the Baguio Economic Zone is inviting applications for the following:

MACHINISTS

(Computer Numerically Controlled/Conventional, Lathes, Mills, Precision Grinds, EDM, etc.)

The job entails the performance of a complete range of grinding/turning, drilling, tapping, boring, burnishing, reaming operations on all computer numerical controlled or manual machines. Make all types of set-ups including fixture alignment and settings of tools and stops. Work from part drawings, operation sheets, program sheets. Inspect own work and use all types of inspection equipment available. Run more than one machine at a time when conditions permit. Set-up machines train and provide guidance for new operators.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- 3 year Mechanical Technology/ BS Industrial Technology / BS Industrial Engineering major in Machine Shop or equivalent as follows:
  - At least 3 years in Engineering with general machine shop vocational course.
  - High School with general machine shop vocational course and 2 ½ years machine shop work experience.
- With minimum 2 years machine shop experience in precision grinds or CNC machines.
- Blueprint reading, use of precision gages like height masters and gages, gage blocks, air gages, etc.

We are also inviting all QUALIFIED applicants for the MACHINIST position to come for:

SCREENING EXAMINATIONS

Examination Dates : August 5 and 6, 2005, Friday and Saturday
Examination Time Slots : 7:30 AM and 1:00 PM of each day
Examination Venue : Don Bosco Technical College
736 Gen. Kalentong St., Mandaluyong City
Examination Requirements : Come with Valid ID, Updated Resumé/Biodata
& Photocopy of Transcript of Records

Moog has a work ethic that demands a great deal from each employee's sense of responsibility, self-discipline, dedication, team work, and expertise. We also offer job security along with a competitive package and a conducive working environment.

All interested applicants unable to join the screening examinations will please send or email their full resumé complete with ID picture, telephone number, transcript of records, salary history, and return address (including telepone number), on Tuesday, August 2, 2005 to:

MOOG CONTROLS CORPORATION
Baguio Economic Zone
Loakan Road, Baguio City 2600
Email address: staffingservices@ph.moog.com

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JULY 31, 2005
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JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
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published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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Thursday 12:00 noon

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eTelecare Global Solutions

ORDINARY CLAY, IN THE HANDS OF A SKILLFUL ARTIST, TURNS INTO A PIECE OF ART.

Like a true artist, eTelecare molds its people to be industry leaders. We leave no stone unturned:

- World-leading behavioral programs like Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, DDI's Interaction Management, Project Management, Problem Solving and Decision Making, which are typically given by other companies to managers only, are made available to every employee at eTelecare.
- More than 100 people are dedicated to look after the training and career development of each employee. Compared with industry standards, we have twice as many people coaching, mentoring and providing support to our front liners.
- Over P130 million have been spent in producing training programs tailor-fit to the individual's level of competence and character. That amount is enough to put up a building, but eTelecare chose to invest it in people development

Even global experts like neoIT, the leading offshore advisory and management firm and CMP's Managing Offshore, the monthly newsletter for global-sourcing managers, recognized eTelecare's People Development program. In fact, eTelecare is the only call center with presence in the Philippines that was honored as one of The Offshore 100's Top 10 Leaders in Human Capital Development.

The facts show, the experts agree, that when you earn the e mark, you earn the privilege to be shaped into a masterpiece.

MANILA CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Operations
- Inbound Customer Service Associates
- Inbound Sales Associates
- Outbound Sales Associates
- Technical Support Representatives
- Multilingual Customer Service Associates (French, Spanish, Dutch, German, Japanese, Italian)
- Operations Manager
- Client Manager

Information Technology
- Computer Systems Specialists
- Project-based Applications Developers (HTML/ASP)
- Telecoms Engineers (Avaya/CMS)
- Business Analyst

Human Resources
- Compensation And Benefits Manager

Global Workforce Management And Reporting
- Work Force Manager

Corporate Growth and Planning
- Contract Quality Assurance Manager

Finance
- Treasury Manager
- Internal Audit Manager

CEBU CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Operations
- Inbound Customer Service Associates
- Inbound Sales Associates
- Outbound Sales Associates
- Technical Support Representatives
- Quality Assurance Manager

eTelecare GLOBAL SOLUTIONS

The world's most awarded and largest Asia-based call center

Manila Hubs
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19/F-20/F Citibank Square
Eastwood City ,QC

Call Center 2:
12/F-17/F PBComm Tower
6795 Ayala Avenue
Makati City

Call Center 3:
20/F-22/F
CyberOne Bldg
Eastwood City, QC

Cebu Hub
Call Center 4:
5/F-7/F Building (ESB)
Asia Town IT Park,
Lahug, Cebu City

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Trunkline 9165670
Manila Recruiting (02) 580-6530
Cebu Recruiting (032) 411-9030

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Is in immediate need of a top caliber individual...

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

- Female; at least 28 years old
- AB Graduate, major in Communication Arts, Advertising or Public Relations, preferably with an MBA degree
- With at least three (3) years experience in public relations and advertising work in a managerial capacity
- Preferably someone with extensive dealing with the press
- Must have EXCELLENT oral and written communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality
- Must be computer literate

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OR E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
Human Resource Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

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inventAsia

Is a foreign owned company, based in Ortigas and run by expatriate management, supplying Business Process Outsourcing Services to the United Kingdom.

Please visit our web site, www.invent-asia.com for more detailed information on the company's background.

In order to cope with the current work level, we are now recruiting for the following positions:

1. Information Technology Manager.

To take responsibility for all aspects of the company's IT and Communication functions, including data protection, legal, quality and safety related issues. This position is a multi-functional role and requires good all-round knowledge of IT aspects, with specific reference to communications and technology that may be associated with Business Process Outsourcing.

The successful applicant will also be required to carry out in-depth studies and produce reports on service providers based in the Philippines and China. This is to ensure their suitability and compliance with the requirements expected by the company and its clients.

Travel will therefore be required within the Philippines and overseas. The successful candidate shall be responsible for holding a valid passport.

Candidates should be educated to graduate level, with minimum 5 years experience in ICT, preferably in a corporate/BPO type environment. It is equally important that the successful candidate has excellent knowledge of English, both verbal and written, with good interpersonal communications skills, self motivated and forward thinking

2. Business Development Executive

This is a key liaison role, which embraces direct and indirect contact on a constant basis, with both our Filipino service providers and UK clients, to ensure and maintain compliance throughout pre-contract and post contract stages.

This position would suit candidates who have had exposure within a sales and marketing environment and whilst not essential, previous experience within areas of Business Process Outsourcing would be a distinct advantage.

Consequently the successful applicant will be expected to undertake travel as and when required, within the Philippines and overseas and therefore, shall be responsible for holding a valid passport.

Candidates should be educated to graduate level, with 3-5 years experience preferably in a corporate environment, with a good working knowledge of IT and common computer software. It is equally important that the successful candidate has excellent knowledge of English, both verbal and written, with good interpersonal communications skills, self motivated and forward thinking.

Full C.V. and appropriate references will be essential
Competitive packages await suitably qualified applicants

To apply for either of the above positions, please forward your C.V. to-date and current salary level to the following email address, for the attention of the General Manager. **Consideration will only be given to those applications received by this method.**

hr@invent-asia.com

Non-short listed applicants will not be notified

Canadian company **AEBC Internet Corp.** is expanding its business, and now hiring full-time staff for its new Metro Manila 24/7 Sales and Technical Support call center. Please send your resume and desired position to **jobs@aebc.com**

Manager of Customer Solutions:

is responsible for managing one or more teams of customer solutions personnel. He/she will ensure that clients and consumers receive world-class service through effective operations management and focus on the development of excellent people and processes and continual improvements in performance and productivity.

Skills/Qualifications:
- * Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
- * 3-5 years management experience in a customer service environment, preferably in a telephone, Internet and/or email contact center.

Technical Support:

is responsible for resolving customer Internet or VoIP technical problems. You must have strong customer service skills, good knowledge of all Windows operating systems, dial up networking, modem/VoIP troubleshooting.

Skills/Qualifications:
- * Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
- * 3-5 years technical support experience in ISP environment

Client Service Account Manager:

is responsible for training and supporting of client subscribers to our ISP/VoIP platform. You are responsible for our first line client sales, billing and support. The ideal candidate will have previous experience working with technology.

Skills/Qualifications:
- * Speaking English a must, and Chinese optional (Cantonese and Mandarin)
- * 3-5 years Client Service Account Manager experience in ISP environment

---

CPA

- Female, not younger than 35 yrs. old
- Minimum of 5 yrs. experience in a Supervisory position
- Highly analytical & with strong sense of responsibility
- Good interpersonal skills

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Restaurant Management Trainee / Assistant Restaurant Supervisor
- Male or Female; 24 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any business or four-year course
- With at least one-year supervisory work experience in a restaurant
- Computer literate
- Open to feedback and self improvement
- Excellent leadership and management skills
- Above-average report preparation, verbal and communication skills.

Accounting Supervisor
- Female, 28 to 35 years old
- Knowledgeable in all aspects of Accounting tasks i.e. preparations of financial statements/reports or treasury functions,
- With strong skills in analysis,
- 3 to 5 years experience as accounting supervisor or head
- Will assist the manager in carrying-out accounting and financial plans and control for the company
- Good team player

Accounting Assistant
- Accounting Graduate
- Female, 24 to 28 years old
- With 2 to 3 years work experience in accounting department

Leasing & Admin. Assistant
- Graduate of management or any related course
- With 2 years work experience in leasing, collection and office administration
- With pleasing personality and can deal with different kinds of client and customers
- Trustworthy and with good work values

Interested applicants, please submit resume with photo, copy of transcript of records to:

HR & Admin. Department
Office of RPM
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or call **Mary Rose Gob** at 525-4264
or e-mail to: maryrosegob@hotmail.com

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GRAPHIC ARTIST

- Responsible in handling all graphic designs
- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts or equivalent experience
- Proficient in windows, Corel, and Adobe Photoshop
- Particular to details
- Working experience in a retail set up is an advantage
- Willing to work long extended hours and render overtime
- Ability to work under pressure
- Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively and professionally with internal and external associates
- Full time position available

IT ADMINISTRATOR

- Tasked to ensure optimum system performance of business software applications and continuously improve functional processes
- Technical support in other technical problems/aspects in other departments who need assistance
- Experienced in POS, hardware/software troubleshooting
- Administration and maintenance of network and systems
- Knowledge in hardware troubleshooting and basic structured cabling
- Knowledge in programming such as Visual Basic, Visual Foxfro, MS Access and SQL
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any related course with scholastic record
- Working experience in a retail set up is an advantage
- Willing to learn new application software
- Demonstrates ability to communicate effectively and professionally with internal and external associates
- Can effectively work under pressure with minimum supervision
- Full time position available

BUILDING AND FACILITY TECHNICIAN

- Responsible in building maintenance and cleanliness
- In depth knowledge in air-conditioning equipment
- Electrical and Forklift troubleshooting and repair is an advantage
- Able to work under minimum supervision and willing to accept shifting schedules
- At least knowledgeable in computer operations such as Windows and MS Office
- Preferably graduate of BS Electrical Engineering or any electrical and air-conditioning course
- Can effectively work under pressure
- Full time position available

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- Preferably with experience in sales and handling people.
- Computer Literate

Direct Salesmen / Van Salesmen / Asst. Van Salesmen

- MALE/FEMALE, 22 to 28 years of age.
- College level
- Previous Sales / Mdsg. experience is a plus.
- Willing to undergo training and to do fieldwork
- With valid Drivers License (preferably professional)

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FASHION DESIGNERS
- Must be willing to travel to China
- Must be proficient in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop
- Experience with fabrication and current market fashion trends
- 25 to 35 years old

FINANCE OFFICER
- Must be willing to travel to China
- Preferably Chinese who can speak & read Mandarin & Cantonese
- Experienced in the complete accounting cycle
- Must have knowledge of import/export including banking transactions

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- Must be wiling to travel to China
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College graduate of Computer Science, Computer Engineering or any related course; must have at least six (6) months experience as a TSR in a call center; eighteen (18) years old and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in varying shifts including graveyard; typing speed (minimum of 25wpm)

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

College graduate; six (6) months to one (1) year experience as a QA Analyst in an offshore customer service account in a call center

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Three (3) - Five (5) years managerial position in a call center; knowledgeable in account management and client coordination;preferably assistant manager / manager specializing in call center operations

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Two (2) - Three (3) years in a call center; should have excellent presentation skills, and be comfortable presenting to the clients; must be detail-oriented and a team player

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

Must have at least six (6) months - one (1) year supervisory experience in a call center; must be an extrovert and have energetic personality; ability to multi-task; good time management skills

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Basic Network (Data) and Telecoms Troubleshooting; familiarity with the Avaya switch; knowledgeable in Windows and Linux Server; basic troubleshooting on workstation hardware; familiarity with different services such as Mail, NTP, FTP, DHCP, active directory both under Windows and Linux; minimum of one (1) year experience in related field

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One (1) Accountant II (SG-18)	Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; 2 years of relevant experience in a supervisory position in a government agency; 8 hours of relevant training; computer literate; excellent oral and written communication skills; must be a CPA.
Five (5) Foreign Affairs Research Specialist (SG-11)	Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; No experience and training required; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.
One (1) Training Specialist (SG-11)	Bachelor degree; No experience and training required; Career Service (Professional) Second Level Eligibility.
Three (3) Clerk III (SG-6)	Completion of two years studies in college; No experience and training required; Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

Please forward your letter of application, comprehensive resumé and recent photo, and a copy of documentary evidence to Civil Service eligibility to:

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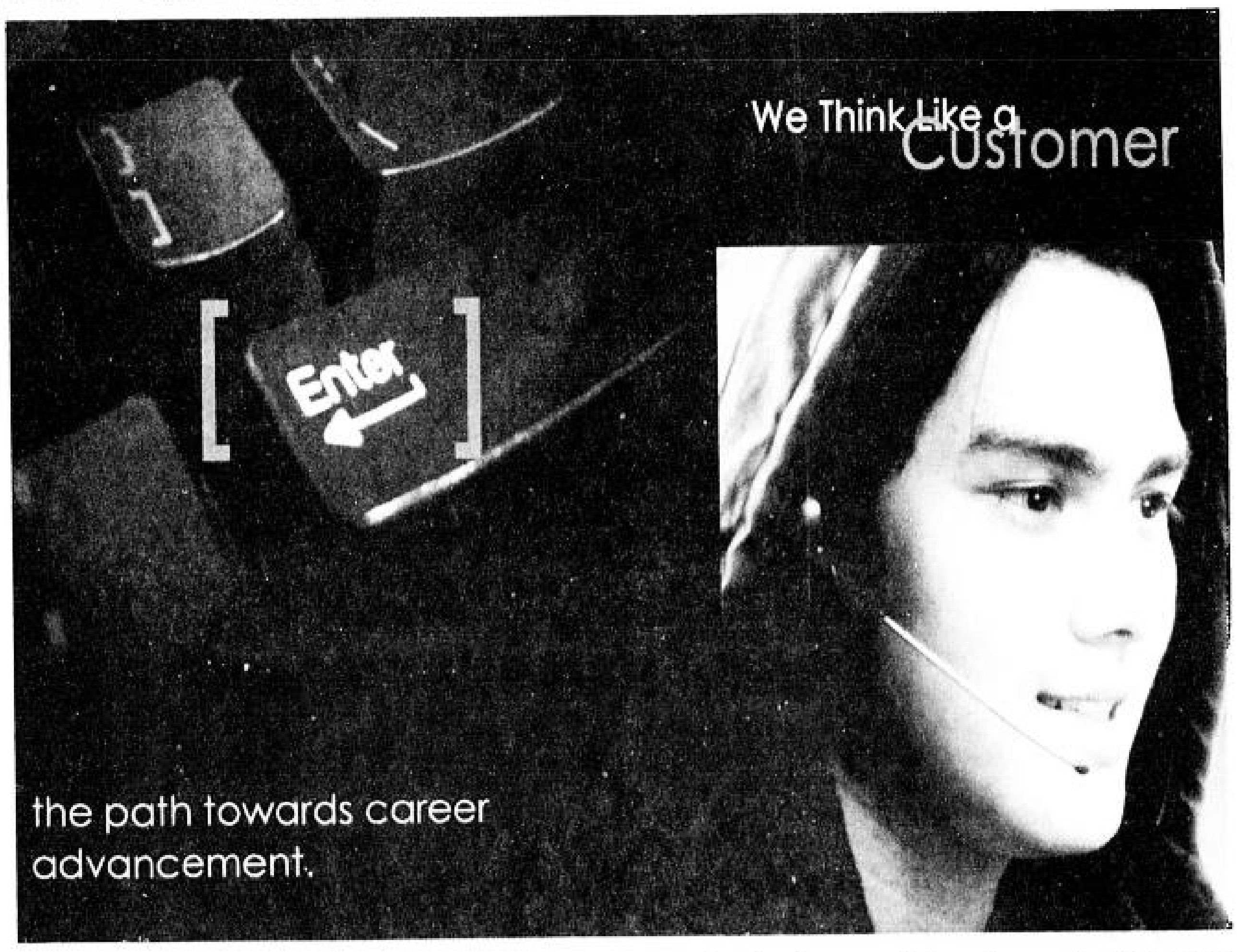
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- ☐ Recent college graduates with outstanding credentials will also be considered.
- ☐ Experience using Oracle and Microsoft SQL Server databases is a plus.
- ☐ Previous experience in software testing is preferred.
- ☐ Excellent written and verbal communication skills

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- ☐ Excellent knowledge and skills with relational database management (RDBMS) systems and SQL. Experience with PL/SQL and Transact-SQL. Good understanding of data modeling and Entity-Relationship Diagrams (ERD).
- ☐ Education or experience in project accounting, financial accounting, payroll, inventory, or purchasing.
- ☐ Proven track record of learning new products and technologies.
- ☐ Previous involvement in all phases of the software development lifecycle.
- ☐ Strong analytical & problem-solving skills and ability to troubleshoot problems in a timely manner.
- ☐ Excellent proficiency in written and spoken English.

SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS Job code: .Net

- ☐ At least two (2) years using JavaScript and ASP.Net
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- ☐ Familiar with n-Tier architecture
- ☐ Strong SQL skill
- ☐ Proficient in T-SQL
- ☐ Knowledge in mySQL is an advantage
- ☐ Certification in Microsoft is an advantage

SYSTEM ANALYSTS Job code: SA

- ☐ Must have a four year college degree, preferably in Computer Science
- ☐ With at least 3 years work experience in Systems Analysis and Design, writing functional specifications, Entity Relationship modeling, Data Flow Diagrams, and Decision Tables
- ☐ Preferably with relevant experience in accounting system
- ☐ With at least 2 years work experience in ASP.Net and/or VB.Net
- ☐ Strong English communication skills, written and verbal
- ☐ Sound problem resolution, judgment, decision-making skills along with strong analytical skills and ability to articulate details.

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Qualified individual should have strong VB6 and COBOL programming skills. The ideal candidate must understand Object Oriented, Event-driven and n-tier architecture. An extensive knowledge of XML, DCOM, HTML, and ISAM file processing is preferred.

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- 27 to 40 years old
- With pleasing personality & excellent interpersonal skills
- With experience in technical sales (executive level)
- With experience in organizing, managing & motivating team of sales engineers/agents.
- Preferably, graduate of BS Engineering
- Computer literate

2.) SALES ASSISTANT/SECRETARY
- Female
- 25 to 35 years old
- College graduate, with background in sales and accounting
- Computer literate
- Honest, can negotiate transactions in all levels & a good team player

Compensation shall be commensurate to actual peformance as a team player

Please send your resumé (w/ 2x2 photo) and transcript of records to:
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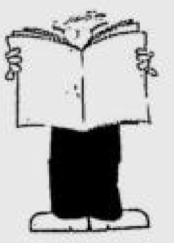

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- ✓ Able to spearhead / assist in product development
- ✓ Qualified individuals from industries with a mass-based market are encourages to apply
- ✓ Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

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- ✓ With adequate experience in tellering, new accounts, bookkeeping and supervision

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- ✓ Between 25 – 35 years old
- ✓ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer for Commercial and Consumer Loans

Credit Evaluator

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- ✓ Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

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(For Metro Manila)
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- ✈ Fluent in Filipino and English. Knowledge of foreign language is an advantage but not required.
- ✈ With pleasing personality and knowledgeable in MS Office Applications.
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REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Company outing

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AS ONE of its consultants, a company invited me to their employee outing on the beach one hot April day. Everyone was supposed to be there, from messenger to manager, and it was a bring-your-own-*baon* thing. At lunchtime, joining in the fun somehow reminded me of the incident spoken of in today's Gospel: the multiplication of the loaves and fish.

This company picnic was a motley crowd and the socio-economic status of each member was clearly reflected in the contents of their lunchboxes. The drivers, janitors, messengers—the humblest of the lot—had the simplest *baon*: lots of plain rice with either scrambled egg, fried *galunggong*, a *longganisa* or a salted egg as the only viand. Some brought budget meals in styrofoam—fried chicken with rice or burger and french fries. Others had fiesta fare—*embutido, menudo, pancit, rellenong bangus*, chicken salad, barbecue, fruit salad, the works. It was curious too, how at first, those with similar *baon* tended to group together, until the company president called everybody to bless the food when some had already begun to dig into their lunch. Everybody stood still as the perceptive leader said a simple prayer of thanks for the food and for one another's presence. A happy picnic followed, with the managers asking the drivers, "*Kuya, pahinging galunggong, miss ko 'yan! Papalitan ko ng menudo!*"

I saw the class distinctions vanish as everybody partook of everybody's food. On hindsight, I think it was the blessing of the food that did it—the reminder that both food and people come from the same Father in heaven turned an otherwise ordinary beach lunch to a joy-filled and memorable *baon*-swapping feast. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

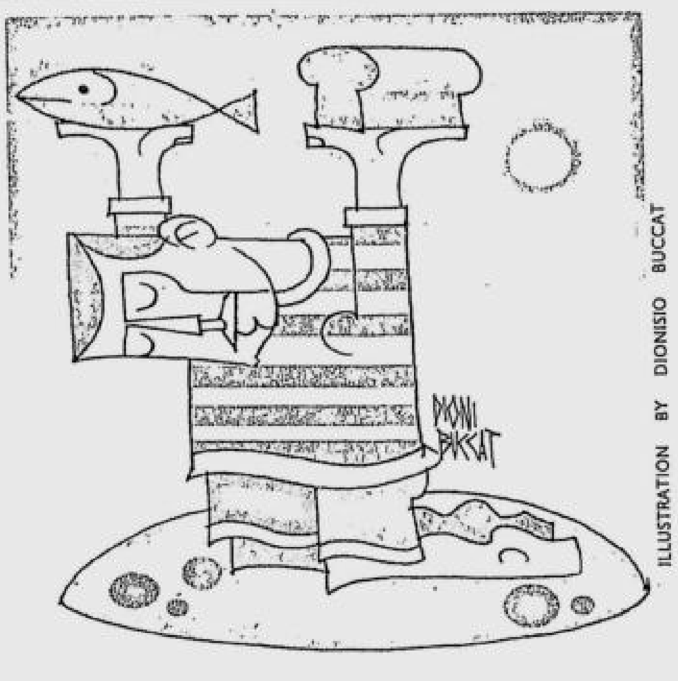

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Mt. 14: 13-21

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Intercessory work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

RECENTLY, a former hard-working and industrious employee of mine sought and asked me urgently to give him any kind of job or allow him to render any service he could do for me. I sensed that he desperately needed help, and I felt so sorry that I could not help him at once. That was one time I wished I could perform a miracle to satisfy his needs, as Jesus did in today's Gospel: He multiplied the five loaves and the two fishes to satisfy the hunger of more than 5,000 people. There are so many poor and needy people in our country and in the whole world that sometimes I'd fancy that God would just instantly fill up everyone's needs without any labor and toil by anyone—the richness and abundance of the original Paradise thus restored.

But the reality, however, shows no magical or instantaneous satisfaction for our needs and desires nor immediate solutions to our problems. Even the Almighty God would ordinarily make use of secondary or intermediate means to bring about our salvation; and would ask for our freely given consent to accept the help and graces He offers to us. God likewise expects our share and participation in the building of His Kingdom through our actions and work.

Our work, therefore, besides supplying our necessities in life, and appearing to be just a mundane affair, can also become a humble means for our spiritual well-being and that of others and a contribution to the construction of God's kingdom. Our daily toil and work, though simple and lowly as the five loaves and two fish, if performed with faith and love and offered as a sacrifice of praise to Jesus and in communion with His sufferings for our salvation, will through God's grace also help those who seek God in their need. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'What's my future in a call center job?'

From page 8★★

thing very much, you have to start going after it now. Here are some tips on how you can enhance your career success in your industry:

1. Realize that no one cares about your career. Don't blame your HR manager if she doesn't know where to put you after five years. It's about time that you take responsibility for your own life, career and finances. Prepare now for your future. Enhance your marketability by learning more skills and competencies. Save enough for the future. If your savings can't tide you over the next six months if you lose your job today, you are not saving enough. Better yet, save as much to allow you to invest in something that will bring money to your pocket without working. If you're working your butt out for money today, dream that in the next few years you will make your money work for you. That dream will never happen unless you set aside money now.

2. Look to the future but stay focused today. You seem to have the right attitude in focusing on the future—that's what you asked me about. Looking for opportunities for a better future doesn't mean jumping to the other call center for a measly 10-percent pay increase offer. Have a career plan, or a business plan for yourself. But as you think of your future, do not overlook the essence of what you are today. In your job, do what needs to be done and be the best of what you are.

3. Volunteer for or tackle the most difficult jobs. Don't stay glued to your job description. Do what needs to be done, not just what you are told to do. If you think you can delight a customer by going the extra mile, do so without giving your employer's money away. When there is a customer that no one can please, volunteer to handle and excite that customer. Delight in doing jobs that others hate to do. In your job, unless you do the extraordinary—the excellent or the horrible—you'll just be a face in the crowd, perhaps ready to go when the new batch of young graduates arrive. But if you're horrible, your boss won't wait for the next batch to arrive.

4. Make things happen. Develop the reputation as a "take charge" guy. Strive to set records—consistently above quota, perfect attendance, with most number of customer commendations, great potential for a leadership position. When you want to get promoted or when applying for a job elsewhere, where you come from is sometimes not as important as what you did (value you created) in your previous jobs.

5. Brag. Performance does not speak for itself. Learn to be seen doing the right things at the right time. Perception is reality. Do a great job always, but take an extra effort to make sure the powers-that-be will notice your great performance. This does not mean being obnoxious by boasting about your every achievement. It is an art that can be learned and mastered by those who want great pay, promotion or elective position.

I believe that each of us has alternative futures available for us. Our thoughts and actions yesterday brought us to our here and now. By the way we think and act today, we are making a choice about our future. I believe in cause and effect—I don't believe in luck. Positive thoughts and positive action will bear positive results. Well, as someone said, "the more I prepared, the luckier I get."

(*Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to* ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

Evaluation Officer

Description of Responsibilities

The position is responsible for providing analytical support to Professional Staff in preparing evaluation studies. Specific responsibilities include:

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- Performing, under the guidance of Evaluation Specialists, economic and financial evaluation of projects/programs being postevaluated by preparing Economic Internal Rate of Return/Financial Internal Rate of Return/cost-benefit/cost effectiveness analyses;
- Participating in reviewing and commenting on draft operational papers such as the Reports and Recommendation of the President, Project Completion Reports, TA Completion Reports, and TA papers and other ADB documents and reports;
- Drafting, under the supervision of the Evaluation Specialist, the synopsis of evaluation reports as needed,
- Assisting in logistics and providing secretariat assistance for workshops, seminars, conferences, and regional TAs;
- Assisting in maintaining and updating the Post Evaluation Information System to ensure accuracy and availability of data and other related information at all times, and in generating reports from the system as required by the Operations and Evaluation Department (OED) and other departments;
- Assisting in developing the Project Performance Management (PPMS), translating sample projects into the PPMS format, and conducting briefings on the new PPMS format; and
- Assisting in developing and maintaining other databases required for special studies, synthesis reports and impact studies

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to Principal and Senior Evaluation Specialists in Operations Evaluation Division 1, OED.

Selection Criteria

- Suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level,
- Bachelor's degree in Economics, Finance, or related field/s, preferably with a postgraduate degree;
- At least 5 years experience in research-related activities.
- Good command of oral and written English language;
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Applicants are requested to submit resume, ID picture, NBI clearance, copy of transcript of records, and other pertinent documents at
9705 HKR Building, Kamagong St., San Antonio Village, Makati City.

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- Has two (2) years experience in handling sales operation specifically in distributor set up.

Booking Salesmen (6)

- Graduate of any business related course
- Male, 20-35 yrs old
- Must have at least two (2) years experience in the distribution of consumer goods
- Must possess excellent communication skills and has exceptional leadership skills
- Self motivated, assertive and with pleasing personality
- Has good moral values and integrity
- Willing to be assigned in Central Luzon and Calamba

Van Salesmen (12)

- Male, 20-30 yrs old, at least College level
- Must have at least 1 yr experience in the selling of fast moving consumer goods
- Must posses a professional driver's license bearing restriction codes 12&3.
- Has good moral values and integrity
- Willing to be assigned in Central Luzon and Calamba

Warehouseman/Delivery Driver/Helper (4)

- Male, 20-30 years old
- At least 1 year experience in dispatching of consumer goods
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- Has good moral character and integrity
- Willing to be assigned in Central Luzon and Calamba

Qualified Applicants may apply personally from **Monday to Friday** from 8:30 – 5:30 at our office, ***1234 Villonco St. Southbay Compound, Sucat, Paranaque City*** (Tel. No. 772-2086 to 87) or you may email your resume at joyjose@kgm.com.ph

Daycare centers promote greater employee productivity

By Ime Morales Aznar
Contributor

(Conclusion)

LOCATED inside the Johnson & Johnson Philippines facility in Parañaque City, J & J's Child Care Center is a mother- and child-friendly establishment that opened in May 2003. It offers a structured learning program for enrolled preschool children and also serves as a drop-in center for children who are not enrolled in the regular program. The center is primarily for new and breastfeeding mothers and employees' children 0 to 6 years old. It is also open to single employees' nieces and nephews. The services are given free of charge.

Conceptualized to support Johnson & Johnson Philippines' Work Life Balance Program, the center aims to "help new mothers continue breast feeding their newborns." There is a private area where moms can breastfeed their babies, and a refrigerator where they can store expressed milk. The center was also created to "help parents cope with domestic issues such as not having a caregiver or relative around to care for their children while they are at work." J & J's Child Care Center generally provides a safe and comfortable space for children at the parent's workplace.

Ideal space

The center can accommodate as many as 25 children at one time. Activity areas include rubberized Play and Study Area, Nap Area, Breastfeeding Area, and Boys' and Girls' Restrooms and Shower Area. There is also a pantry for dining. The center also provides purified drinking water. And of course, there is a TV and a computer unit—mainstays in any play-study space for children. Children absolutely love the 500 sq m outdoor playground equipped with Little Tykes equipment.

The center enjoys the services of a nurse and an aide to ensure the health and safety of the children. Another aide also helps in cleaning the daycare and attending to the children when needed. Center administrators encourage the employees to bring along their children's own care giver, if possible, so there is someone to provide full attention to their children.

Learning as priority

The regular enhancement program is outsourced to Little Dipper Learning Center, an Early Child Education/Development Center. According to Emer Ganzon, J & J's associate human resources manager, "Little Dipper Learning Center provides three teachers composed of a senior teacher, assistant teacher and teacher aide. The administrator, a director of our daycare provider, visits at least twice a week." An added service is the free tutorial lessons for older kids, which is being offered on appointment basis.

"The Child Care Center has enhanced J & J's image as a child-friendly and family-centered company," Ganzon says. "It has also helped increase employee retention—parents feel more secure since the children are just nearby; while they are at work, their kids spend productive learning time."

Inquirer's daycare center

The Philippine Daily Inquirer opened a daycare center inside its Chino Roces building in December 2001. It was established to assist its employees when their helpers are not available to take care of their children. It does not offer a preschool education curriculum, but opens its doors as a simple daycare center where parents can safely leave their children while they work. Rolly Suarez, PDI's head of human resources, explains that "sometimes, parents are not comfortable leaving their children alone with the *yaya* (nanny) at home—the daycare center addresses that concern. They know that their children are safe at the center while they work."

"Absenteeism goes down," Suarez says, adding that it's a benefit related to the company's thrust towards work-life balance. And parents certainly welcome it because all the services the daycare center offers are free of charge.

Child's play

The daycare center can accommodate a maximum of 10 children at one time. The center accepts children from six months to 12 years old. A child from six months to three years old should be accompanied by a nanny or a relative who can supervise the child.

"We get our own *yaya* to take care of the children—read books to them, play games with them, assist them in writing or coloring. We encourage interaction among the children," Suarez says. The daycare center carries a collection of books, films, VCDs and audio tapes. It has a sofa, a TV, drawing materials and coloring books. "It's one big playroom with cushions on the floor where the kids can sleep," he adds. Children eat in the pantry just outside the center. The pantry is equipped with heating facilities and a microwave oven.

House rules

The daycare center is managed by Inquirer's Employee Services and Development Center. It implements simple house rules like basic courtesy, no hurting among the kids, and no admittance of children with contagious ailments like cough or colds. "We ask the doctor first to determine the child's condition, if a child needs to go to the clinic, we also have a clinic and a nurse on duty during office hours," says Suarez.

These three companies, IBM, J & J and Inquirer, prove that providing such family-oriented services to their employees do have a positive impact on employees' productivity. At the very least, working moms and dads, can heave a sigh of relief knowing that their children are safe nearby.

(Send feedback to blubitel@yahoo.com)

J & J's Child Care Center's nap area. ROGER MARGALLO

J & J's Little Dipper Learning Center teachers and students at the play and study area. ROGER MARGALLO

PHILIPPINE Daily Inquirer's daycare center with regulars Andrei, Aaron and Yaya Ging-ging at the play area. ROMY HOMILLADA

ANDREI and Aaron at the PDI daycare lounge area watching a Barney kiddie show. ROMY HOMILLADA

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‘What’s my future in a call center job?’

By Ernie O. Cecilia, FPM

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

IT’S BEEN almost two years now since I passed the rigorous recruitment process and landed a job in an outbound customer contact center. I’ve learned to love the job and adapted to the unique circumstances of a call center.

Perhaps, like many of my colleagues, I first thought that I would just do a good job and move on to other call centers that can offer higher pay. Lately, I decided to take my career seriously. But what is my future in a call center job?

Can you please enlighten me on career options in the call center industry and how to move to other opportunities in and out of the industry?

Maverick

Thank you for your e-mail and I think you represent a majority of the young, articulate and ambitious associates in your industry. Your pen name tells me you also typify the spirit that drives this young industry, particularly in the Philippines. Let me first give you a quick update of your industry. Then, I will give you some career advice.

The contact center or customer contact center industry is usually seen as a part of the growing business process outsourcing (BPO) phenomenon happening in many parts of the world. Because of globalization and the unprecedented progress in information and communication technology (ICT), large corporations in America and Europe, and elsewhere in the world, can now access and offer access to customers worldwide without having to be physically near these customers.

These companies choose to operate customer contact centers in locations that offer competitive advantages. India seems to lead other countries in offering competitive sites, but claims to corner only about $3 billion of the estimated $70 billion BPO business worldwide last year.

Philippine call centers

The Philippines is starting to get an increasingly fair share of the market and now boasts of some 70 call centers—60 outbound (mostly catalogue sales) and 10 inbound (warranty support, etc.). Of these 70 companies, five call centers have half of the total workforce. Annual employee turnover in the call center industry is expectedly high—from 20 percent to 40 percent among inbound call centers and higher among outbound call centers.

Entry-level positions are usually filled by Filipino college graduates with mastery of the American English language, mostly with an American twang or accent.

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

If every year 10 percent of the 400,000 college graduates would be interested in joining the call center industry, that’s a big supply out there. Of course, that pales in comparison with India’s two million graduates a year, mostly in IT courses. If only five percent of job applicants pass the call center requirements, that translates into about 2,000 qualified associates.

Surely, that number is not enough to meet the increasing number of vacant seats in the industry. I personally know that large automotive, computer and other conglomerates are seriously looking at possibly setting up customer contact centers in the Philippines. A conservative estimate places the total call center population in the Philippines today at 50,000 and is estimated to grow at an average of 20 percent per year over the next five years. Again, the numbers are very conservative, since some of the centers have grown 50 percent last year.

Industry outlook

So, what is your future in the industry?

As long as the Philippines can offer competitive sites, your industry will grow. Competitiveness here means primarily cost consideration to the investing operator. But other countries have a distinct advantage over the Philippines in other aspects—apart from India’s strategic location in the time zone. Other countries have the infrastructure and support that the IT industry needs in order for the call center industry to prosper. At the end of the day, a locator will have several questions to ask when setting up shop or moving out of the Philippine site. Employee compensation is only one of them. Is the Philippine government willing to set up the needed IT support infrastructure? Yes, the government has good intentions, but today it lacks the money to materialize all the good intentions.

So, what will prevent your company from moving out to India or other cost competitive locations tomorrow? You should know the answers better. That will partly answer your question whether you have a future in your industry.

Career implications

Let’s also examine where you can go, assuming that the industry stays robust.

A career in your industry requires dynamism, customer-focus and skills in building relationships. If the young graduates are attracted to the industry, we can also say that the industry is attracted to young graduates with potential. The industry is willing to pay to train young people with good potentials, but usually wants fresh minds and mouths every two years or so in their front lines. So, where should you be after two years when new graduates will be flocking to your HR department to unseat you? Of course, what normally happens is not a platoon substitution. If you look around, there could be a few in your group who were there before you. But with high turnover, your likely seatmate could be a recent joiner.

If the only thing you get from working in the call center is the American twang and slang, you’re missing something. It’s not any better than memorizing the lyrics of a Nat King Cole song as a result of a failed love affair. Obviously, there is more to a call center job. The competencies you learn in the call center can be very similar to what other large multinationals require. While doing your job well, learn as many skills and competencies as you can that will qualify you to take on other jobs. You don’t even have to look far. Within the call center, vertical mobility might be slow, but there is a good opportunity for some deserving and capable associates to move up to supervisory or managerial positions. If you can’t move up, you can opt to move out of your call center into the same industry or to other industries. If you have the knack, you can explore entrepreneurship as a career option. Going abroad to join your principal’s overseas operation is not a far-fetched option.

Take charge of career

But these options will not be offered to you on a silver platter. If you want some-

WHAT’S/P.6★★

Spice up your work day with new wardrobe

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

ELLE Woods of Legally Blonde was able to pull off the head to toe pretty-in-pink look while still looking credible and professional. In this season of pinks, pastels and bright colors, the pretty-in-pink look in the office is not hard to pull off. Color is a great way to spice up an otherwise drab workday. When nothing can pull you out of bed, not even a double dose of espresso, maybe a splash of cherry on your bag or even on your cheeks can perk you up. For those a bit wary of color, reconsider your accessories. If you wish to move up and get noticed, a little sharpening and spicing up your corporate wardrobe could do wonders.

Gone are the days of pure blacks and staid buttoned-up shirts. Stock up your closets with colors and patterns. You don’t have to break your back, or your bank account, for a corporate attire makeover. Sometimes, upgrading your look simply means wearing a fresh rose bud for a corsage or opting for an inexpensive cardigan over a pricey suit.

Starting from scratch

If you wish to start from scratch, consider breaking free from the traditional fabrics of cotton, nylon netting, polyester, wool worsted fabrics and twill.

Tweeds for suits, jackets and blazers are fashionable nowadays. Woven from dyed and spun wool, tweed offers a variety of designs, patterns and colors that is a break from the traditional solid suit colors of blacks, browns, blues and grays. Tweed can add a punch of light blues, pinks, reds and greens without looking too loud or casual.

For those who insist on sticking to the solid colors, consider piping or ribbons as inspired by the classic Chanel suit. The Chanel suit is popular for its braided trims and ribbons on the waist. Unfortunately, at $5,000 a set, the average executive won’t be able to afford one even with a year’s worth of salary. The good news is several designers have come up with suits inspired by the Coco Chanel classic. Having one tailor made for you might be a good idea. Consider ribbons, braided trims and fur trims. Play with rosette or pearl buttons to lend a boxy tailored suit or a solid-colored set some fun.

Color play

It’s the age of colors; take advantage. Pastels for suits are now acceptable, even fashionable are reds and greens. “I would say pink, fuchsia or shades of both colors. These are two very flattering colors on Asian skin yet fashionable colors. Therefore, you can’t go wrong with them,” recommends Rachel Koh of Urban & Co. Urban & Co is a Singapore-based trendsetter that recently opened shop at Glorietta 4, SM Megamall and Shangri-la Plaza Mall.

Karen Lozon, Urban & Co’s retail manager prefers the shades of green and blue. “They are also good colors, which working women can invest in when they are tired of the traditional colors of neutral, black, white, navy and gray.”

Consider some color on your cheeks as well. If you were never the type to wear makeup, a little cheek tint or a bright red on your lips could bring some life into your get up. Experiment with greens and blues to open up your eyes. Just remember that you are dressing for work and not for play. Only one feature of your face should be highlighted. If you’re wearing cherry red on your lips for instance, make sure your eye makeup is subdued.

Mix and match

Instead of the traditional blazer or jacket, consider a cardigan worn traditionally or casually over the shoulder. It softens the tailored look and offers a larger variety of colors. “Now with the crop cardigan trends as additional option, a corporate wardrobe can definitely be even more interesting,” shares Koh. According to Urban & Co’s creative fashion director, a cropped cardigan, a shrug top or even a bolero is an interesting alternative to the jacket. A shrug top is similar to a bolero. It is like a top cut below the breast and is snugly fitted to the body. Some call it a waist-length or shorter jacket.

Aside from shorter jackets, Koh suggests to match a tailored piece with a more relaxed piece in denim or knit. Lozon shares the same idea. “Try a tailored 3/4 blouse with pink denim, or a plain white knit and tailored pants, accessorized with beaded necklaces or a corsage pin.” According to Lozon, cropped pants go well with jackets. They’re versatile because they can be worn from power dressing to dress down Friday depending on the top and accessories.

CONSIDER MODI T’boli jackets or boleros in place of blazers.

PHOTO BY LILEN UY. COURTESY OF PREVIEW MAGAZINE

Also, experiment with the tops under your blazer or cardigan. Instead of the usual buttoned blouse, be more daring and sexy with tube tops, soft chiffon scarf tops or lacy camisoles. Lace peeking out of your tailored suit adds a touch of sexiness and femininity. “One can also take puff-sleeve tops in fluid fabric such as georgette and chiffon and can pair these with bias skirts or crop pants,” adds Lozon.

Go indigenous

Whoever thought that being nationalistic can be fashionable? We’re not talking about wearing the flag on your sleeve; we’re referring to *malong*, T’boli charms and *hablon* fabrics as corporate wear. A synergy of indigenous artisans with their own established, deeply rooted crafts-making customs and skills, and a talented, dedicated set of city-bred designers with their contemporary concepts and methods resulted in a fashionable but wearable line called Modern Indigenous (MODI) available at Kish in Greenbelt 3.

Young designer volunteers Tracie Anglo Dizon, Richie Ortega, Mara Coscolluela, Kirby Quintal and Mel la ‘O came together with the Mangyan Alangan, Mangyan Iraya and Mangyan Hanunoo of Mindoro, Palaw’ an of Palawan, T’boli of Lake Sebu, Higaonon of Bukidnon and the rural weavers of Negros to produce *malong*, jackets, capelets, boleros, woven clutch bags and tribal necklaces that can be worn in the office.

(*To be continued next week*)

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

What shouldn’t you do to be a successful leader?

WORKING WOUNDED
Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I really want to be an effective leader. The stuff I read doesn’t seem like it works in the real world. Can you give me something that really works?

Can’t Follow

An executive once asked me in a job interview to describe one leadership experience I’d had. I described a program that I’d run with 30 senior citizens, all of whom were volunteers. “That isn’t leadership,” he replied. I asked him, “How many people report to you?” “Sixteen,” he said. “How long could you keep your staff intact if you didn’t pay them?” I asked. “You do know something about leadership” was his sheepish reply.

This gets to the heart of my definition of leadership: to be a leader you must have followers. Most of the leadership principles and practices I see seem to run counter to this. Below I’ve listed five leadership don’ts, and what you can really do to be an effective leader.

Don’t be too efficient. Today, we’re all multitaskers. I believe that really good leaders are strategically inefficient. For example, when one of your people comes to you with a problem, don’t do the most efficient thing and immediately give them a solution. Ask them what they’ve already tried. Ask questions. Help them to come up with their own solutions, even if it seems like a roundabout, inefficient approach.

Don’t follow the Golden Rule. The world has been well-served by the Golden Rule, “do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” for many years. However, it no longer applies at work. The Platinum Rule is now in effect: “do unto others as they would have done unto them.” If you want to motivate your people, take the time to ask them what would help them to do a better job.

Don’t avoid politics. Ask any group of executives about politics at work and you’ll get an earful—back stabbing, brownnosing and bosses always get the credit for everything. It’s rare that you ever hear about positive politics, like building community, looking out for someone’s back or doing a favor for someone without asking for anything in return. Seek to build community by playing positive politics at work.

Don’t try to control everything. It never ceases to amaze me how we hire really smart people and then treat them like they are felons. Here’s a radical notion: give your people a longer leash at work. Or even better, take off their leash entirely. Give your people room to make mistakes and to learn and grow.

Don’t be perfect. Most type “A” executives that I’ve met are perfectionists. I believe perfection at work is the wrong goal. Why? Because the opposite of perfection isn’t sloppy work, it’s all the work that will never get done. Be less than perfect when perfection isn’t required and you’ll free up lots of energy for the really important stuff.

Avoid these don’ts and your leadership practices will keep your followers coming back for more.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Which of the leadership practices below is the most dangerous to effective leadership?

—Following the Golden Rule, 2.3 percent

—Being too efficient, 3.4 percent

—Avoiding politics, 5.4 percent

—Perfectionism, 16.6 percent

—Trying to control everything, 72 percent

(*Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at* bob@workingwounded.com.)

What’s inside

Reflections for the Working Soul p.6★★

Daycare centers promote greater employee productivity p.7★★

July 31, 2005
sunday INQUI
magazine

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOP

Rep. Darlene Custodio

Little Girl in a Big Fight

She may look like a schoolgirl, but South Cotabato Rep. Darlene Antonino Custodio can hold her own when it comes to waging her political battles. This prominent figure in the Arroyo impeachment bid looks to family exposure, her youth and her experience for additional clout

by Gerry Lirio
photographs by Lyn Rillon

A FILIPINO reporter meeting her for the first time in Mexico last April thought she was the daughter of another congresswoman who had tagged along for the 10-day trip.

At 32, Darlene Magnolia Ricasa Antonino Custodio looks like a schoolgirl. Slim, young and pretty in casual shirt and jeans, she certainly doesn't look like the representative of South Cotabato's first district. But the five-foot flat, 98-pound congresswoman is actually on her second term. So far, she has filed 12 local bills and 20 national bills, including one seeking a comprehensive family planning program for the entire country.

Four years of legislative work, debating with government bureaucrats and other lawmakers in the male-dominated House of Representatives, browsing over research papers on economics, agriculture and public works, and balancing peace and progress in her part of Mindanao have honed Darlene's political skills and given her enough stamina and preparation to join the big league.

These days she's better known as a little girl fighting a big battle: the bid to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo.

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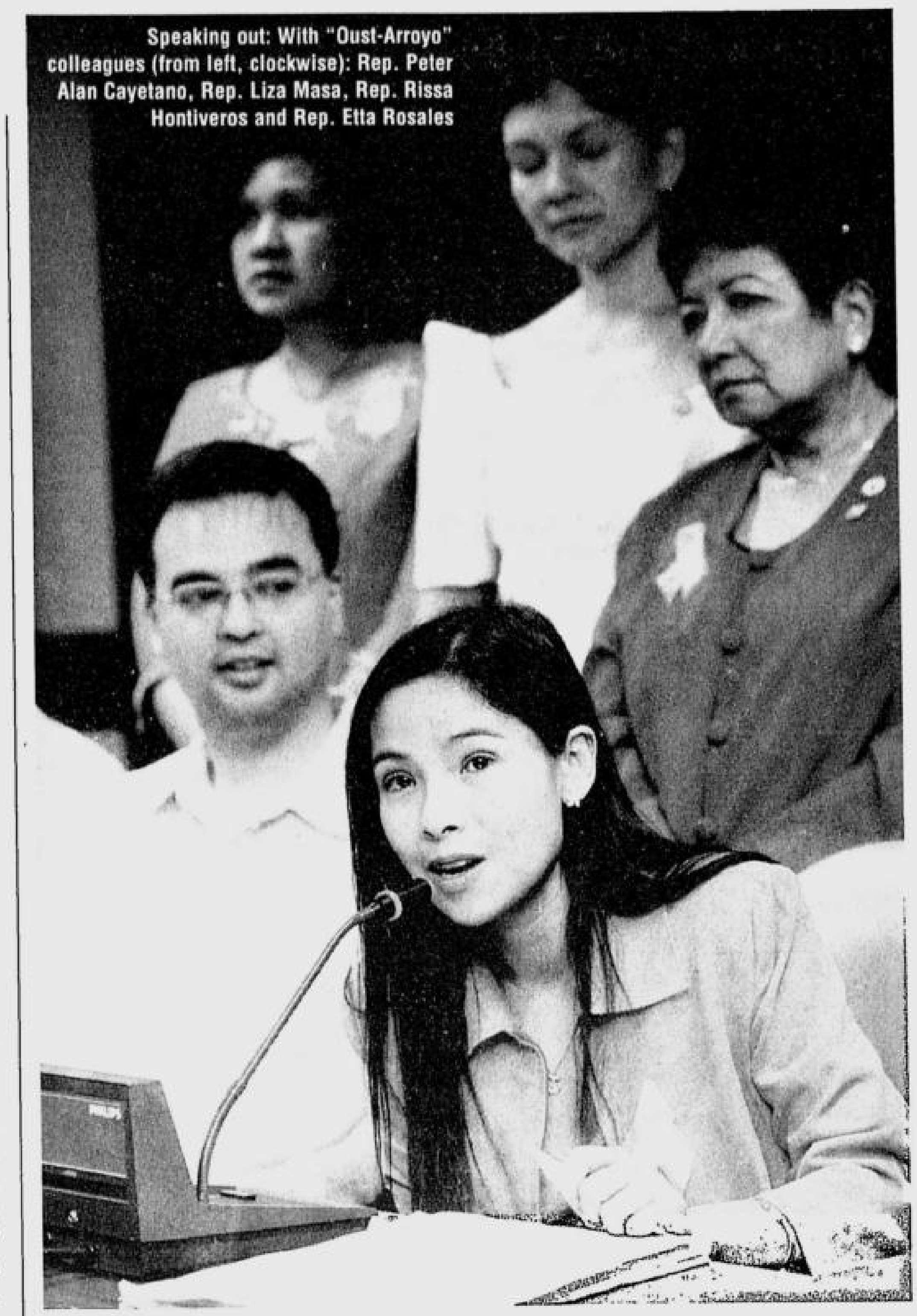
Still Gabbing After All These Years, *p.4* • A Harvard Summa Cum Laude Crochets A Cocoon in Search of Her Place of Origin,

Darlene*...from page 1*



Speaking out: With "Oust-Arroyo" colleagues (from left, clockwise): Rep. Peter Alan Cayetano, Rep. Liza Masa, Rep. Rissa Hontiveros and Rep. Etta Rosales

Darlene and young Sorsogon Rep. Chiz Escudero are among the lawmakers in the forefront of the impeachment drive led by Rep. Ronnie Zamora of San Juan. Although it is still short of the required 79 signatures, the group is confident that it could muster the crucial number needed to file the impeachment bid.

Before the case grabbed national attention, Darlene has been fighting tooth and nail to push a comprehensive family planning program from the House's health committee to the Senate. "Mexico and the Philippines put up their own family programs almost at the same time 30 years ago to check rapid population growth," she notes. "They were successful, we weren't. That's because we can't put our act together."

In October 2003, she and Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla and a group of young lawmakers led in the filing of an impeachment complaint against Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide for alleged misuse of judiciary funds. Collectively known as the "Brat Pack," most of the representatives in the group are children of veteran politicians, second- or third-generation lawmakers who dared go against a very popular and highly credible public official.

Controversial issues

Her propensity to get into controversial—even unpopular—issues speaks of Darlene's political background. Not exactly a neophyte in Philippine politics, she is also not without clout. The daughter of former South Cotabato Rep. Lualhati Antonino and former congressman and Gen. Santos City Mayor Adelbert Antonino also has former senator Gaudencio Antonino for a grandfather. Darlene is a product of the Montessori in Greenhills and the De La Salle University.

But more than political tutelage and connections, the youthful-looking representative looks to experience as having taught her the best lessons in lawmaking. She specifically mentions the Davide impeachment bid as having prepared them for the looming GMA impeachment battle. For one thing, they've now begun to communicate their cause to a larger public. And two, they now know how to keep themselves focus and organized.

"In the beginning, it was a little difficult," she recalls of their Davide days. "I was a bit afraid, because we were young and there were a lot of people wiser than us. Then too, Congress is a man's world. It is a fear experienced by all women."

Her gender does get in the way occasionally, she admits. "Sometime you'd be seen with a young congressman in public. You may be talking about the budget, for instance, but people will start thinking you're an item. *Minsan, napapag-chismisan kayo* (Sometimes, you get gossiped about)."

Not that she takes the speculations seriously, she adds. "I guess at my age, I don't really mind. I mean, it's not an issue, unlike during my grandmother's generation when it was prohibited to speak with boys. But I went to a coed school, and there boys and girls were treated as equals."

One of the boys

It probably helps that she has no brother in the family, she says. "My father talked to me and my sister as if we were one of the boys."

It is the same attitude she takes to Congress, she adds. "I have told some colleagues that if we allow ourselves to be affected by (gossip), we can't do our job. Now, if we were all men, we wouldn't be seen as an item even if we're talking about the same things—legislative work, politics, government programs, what's good for all our districts, etc."

Being young has its advantages, she points out. "If we limit ourselves into thinking that just because I'm young and a woman, I should only pass laws for women and children, then it would limit what we can do." She adds: "If we don't talk to the men who dominate Congress and to people outside Congress, then imagine how limited the information and knowledge we can achieve. But we don't think that way anymore, and that's one of the advantages of being from this generation."

Her family's political background was an asset to her as well, says Darlene. "We were exposed to first-hand experiences in politics. My sister and I were actively involved in my parents' campaign when they both ran for office at the same time. At home, I faced political leaders. During the campaign, my grandfather died. I was left alone to attend to my parents' campaign schedule," she says.

Growing up in a small closely-knit community helped as much, adds Darlene. "When we were young and my parents were in politics, the entire town was our playground. From our house, you could go to the municipal hall and the town plaza anytime. You could run and play anywhere. We could do that because our family has done so many things for our district."

School proved to be another potent training ground. "Do you know where I first learned how to face the public? In school—*sa entablado ng eskwelahan* (the school's stage)! I was in theater learning the art of facing an audience. I faced audiences at the very young age of 12. I have been exposed to all types of people."

Very supportive

While her mother supports her cause, her father, now a businessman, supports Ms Arroyo. But both don't meddle in her legislative work, claims Darlene. "I'm happy because they're both very supportive of me. But I am happier because they believe in what I do so they never give me advice unless it's solicited," she says.

"I guess they're confident because they know they have raised me well," adds Darlene. "I have my set of principles and we talk about it over dinner. But they never, never try to stop me. They never say, *oy, parang mali yata yung naging* decision *mo, ah* (you may have made the wrong decision)."

Darlene is married to businessman Benjie Custodio. They have two kids—Aaron Vincent, 5 and Karina Anica, 2, to whom, this little girl says, she dedicates this one big battle. Q

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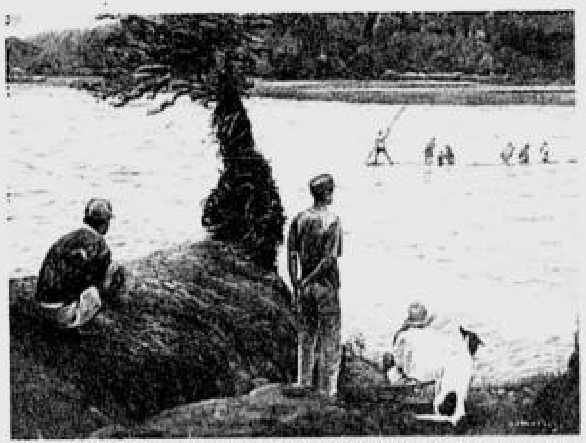


LAMAROZZA'S LIFE AND ART Manuel Duldulao's latest publication, "Prudencio Lamarozza: His Life and Art," traces the roots of Lamarozza's art, containing a collection of rare photographs of the subject's early life and the accompanying collection of 192 plates from various periods in his career. In photo is "By the River." For inquiries, call Marila at 0917-8915249. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Poetry

Sans Rhyme

There are things I cannot write about
Things I've seen
That resist metaphor
Irony lost in rage
In unwanted caresses
Things that defy definition
Meanings splattered in red
Red dark as first mens
Red dark as blood bathed in shadows

These are the things I cannot
  pen into poetry
Things that do not have rhythm
Nor form that sway to soft air
In the night
I have seen these things
In half-remembered moments
They swoop down on me
Like birds of prey
Snatching words from my mouth
  before they could escape
Wrestling reason to the ground
With hard punches and jabs
Before crushing
Powerful claws digging into flesh

The body of reason lies shriveled and torn
It bleeds in my mind
Like the scream that obliterates thought
The scream that is held captive
These things I cannot write about
Because they hurt
Because they come in the night
And steal me from the lap of sleep

Lani T. Montreal

Makatang Hambog

May makatang hambog na nagmayabang
Matalim sa hiwaga sa talinhaga'y di kulang
Kayang kumatha ng tulang sandaan
At ang guniguni'y singlikot ng langgam

Ang makatang ito'y may pagka-palalo
Sa balitaktakan hindi papatalo
Mga tanyag na katha at sikat na berso
Laging binibigkas, tantyado, saulado

Walang ibang magaling kundi sariling giting
Ibang mga tula kinukutya binibitin
Karangalan ng iba'y pilit inaangkin
Maitago lamang ang mabahong lihim

Minsan nagkasakit ang makatang hambog
Napanis ang talinhaga, hiwaga'y lumubog
Mga tulang kinatha, nanghina sumabog
Isip at kamay, nagkalagot-lagot

Mga musa ng panulat milagrong nawala
Pagsalat ng salita, nangagsibula
Katinuan ng isip, lalong nasalaula
Kumatha mang pilit, laging tulala

Rommel Rodriguez

Rib

As far as I know,
the legend happened in a split-second.
God wanted to come out clean, fleeing
the marked spot like a curious riddle. So the first man
was put to sleep: the first real get-away, instant
and painless. Whenever we reach that part of the story
where the rib juts out from his side, you wonder
if it is merely bone. But then you start to believe
it is also keepsake, fine heirloom—a loneliness
finally coming off like a splinter.

Do you get the whole picture? No,
this is neither Michelangelo nor the 1500s; none
of that smoothness in stepping out of a body,
that light walled in and stucco-perfect. These
are difficult times and what we imagine
we have created (out of loam, bamboo splitting in two,
the primordial being) is pure coincidence.

We are always caught in the middle of something, various
emergencies. You only have to name things
to be able to claim them. An event of eyes and hands, meeting,
means that the pedestrian crossing the street
is mine. Also this stranger beside me, rapt in a motel room
at three in the morning; the head resting on my arm, more
like an enjambment than a complete and irreversible thought.
Do you know what the Paradise stands for? It is hunger,

hunger and the pit, deep end of something else
that is a spacious cavity—that which keeps track
and, ever after, holds. Someone eventually
has to step into the clearing; the found other still
as a portrait, as if startled by a wild animal.
The rest of us just clamber up our beds because patience
Does not wait on anybody. It is simply stubbornness,
slow yet seeks to get even. It so happened:

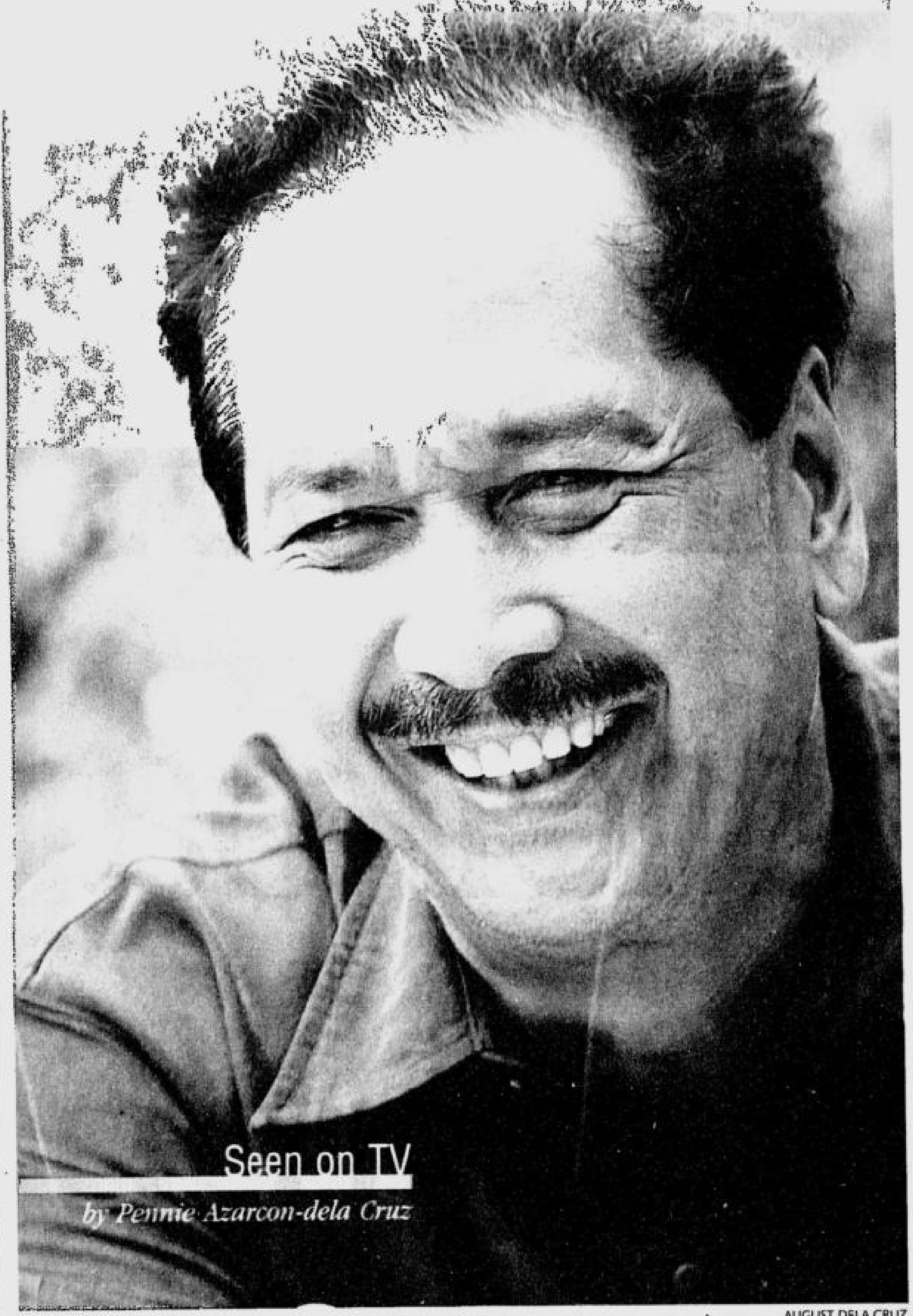
Beneath that thick hide of the plot, we came across
the last of the fruit-bearing trees. And we stood there
gaping, the way we wanted to take in everything—
whole lives, this bright field, stars. This
is the only kind of pardon we may have deserved,
to keep the indentions of the natural world inside us
without regret: and that one bite, finally,
that offers no other explanation but,
this time around, foolish and alone, we'll fall in love.

Allan Pastrana

Chances are, other papers will refuse to run this ad.

Well, at least, majority of all broadsheet readers nationwide will know about the latest AC Nielsen Survey that says that the Philippine Daily Inquirer has a nationwide readership of 55% across all demographics. We'd like to thank the reading public for making the Inquirer the No. 1 newspaper in the country today. What a great way to celebrate our 20th year.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER



Seen on TV

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Still Gabbing After All These Years

TV host and '70s icon
Ariel Ureta returns to
give viewers a break
from the panic button
pushed by the
6 o'clock news

HE was so big in the '70s that martial law authorities used him to start a rumor meant to quell dissent. But no, says Ariel Ureta, of late the host of ANC's "My Favorite Show," there's no truth to the "*bisikleta*" story that had him cycling around Crame, allegedly because he made fun of the New Society slogan on television.

PDI PHOTO

"Mr. Suave" of the '70s

What eventually became an urban legend started when the then popular noontime show host heard a small boy utter those infamous words: "*Sa ikauunlad ng bayan, bisikleta ang kailangan,*" a send-off of the era's paean to discipline as the way to progress. "I whispered the story to (newscaster) Bong Lapira at the ABS-CBN canteen and soon enough, it was on everybody's lips," recounts Ariel. It so happened, he adds, that he left the following weekend for the Ati-atihan festival ni Kalibo, Aklan and was missing during his Monday show. That was when the speculations started. "I think the military fed the gossip mills to warn people against treating martial law as a joke," he says. Despite his denials, the story was widely believed, the original "Mr. Suave" claims, because "all those jealous guys spread it to get back at me. I was hogging their girlfriends' attention and they hated me for it."

Girl of the hour

Now that isn't just conceit. Some 30 years ago, people closely watched Ariel as he made his grand entrance at parties and awards' nights. There, draped on his arm, was the Girl of the Hour, this divine creature who was henceforth marked as official object of envy and adulation.

Being able to date so many women was in fact the main reason he chose to be on television rather than advertising, admits the irrepressible Ariel. "I even thought that was my purpose in life—*mang*-chicks." The obsession to become a latent Don Juan, he muses, may have been his way of compensating for being a homely and unspectacular child amidst a raving beauty of an elder sister, a pair of good-looking twins, and another fair-haired younger sibling, says this second child. "I was *ngeh-ngeh* (so-so)," he says, balancing his palm. "*Kaya ako* KSP (*kulang sa pansin*). I did everything and anything to get attention," confesses this TV personality who became known for his witticisms, naughty asides and irreverent antics during his hosting stints.

In fact, he recalls, his mother's co-teachers once visited their home to look at her newborn. "Of course when they saw my sister Mila, they all went cooing, '*uy, ang* cute-cute!' Then they asked, so where's your new baby? There, my mother said, pointing to the crib. They all trooped to where I was, but turned back to my mom, '*Ay, wala dito. Anak ito ng katulong mo, eh*! (But this is your helper's baby!)."

It didn't help that his father, an architect "who was too embarrassed to charge full professional fees," kept them on a paltry allowance. "I was not popular in high school *kasi hindi ako ma*-blow-out," recalls Ariel. When he boarded buses, he adds, he would immediately get off when a classmate or acquaintance got on the same vehicle. "My allowance was only enough for my fare," he explains. If he couldn't afford the occasional blow-out and fare treat, there was no way he could date girls either. "And that was why I was particularly enamored with girls aged 15 or 16," he says of his dating preferences. "I guess I was subconsciously re-living my younger days when women this age were out of reach," he says.

But everything changed when he was in third year college at UST, taking up architecture. A natural-born wit, Ariel would occasionally submit ideas to his advertising contacts, until an ad agency convinced him to abandon school and work full time. That was how he learned the ropes about producing shows and commercials, and became a fixture at TV stations. Soon enough, he became executive producer at ABS-CBN, and a natural magnet to aspiring TV models.

"My girlfriend once visited the set unannounced and saw a promo girl seated on my lap," recounts Ariel. "We had a big fight but I managed to convince her that that was how TV work was—*beso-beso kami lahat dito*, etc." But on another surprise visit, his girlfriend saw a promo girl dressing up in front of him. She had him choose between her and his TV career. "*Mabait pa ko n'on*, and I chose her," he says.

Most eligible bachelor

That didn't stop other women from trying to ensnare the country's most eligible bachelor at the time. "At one point, I had to wear a wedding ring to fend them off," Ariel says matter-of-factly. "I would tell the father, 'Don't worry, I'll bring her home by 2 a.m." And the father would say, 'Oh, you can bring her back anytime you like.' That had me worried, so to avoid complications, I got a wedding ring. Then I could always tell the girl, 'I can't marry you, I'm already married!"

These may all sound like bluster and braggadocio in these politically-correct times, but back then, people forgave Ariel his excesses. At a time when everybody looked over his shoulder before saying anything lest the Metrocom pick him up for subversion, the TV host was blathering away, sly-winking topics too dangerous to discuss in public. True, there was the tux and matching english that made him a perfect choice at hosting grand events, but there were also the downhome Filipinisms that pulled him back to earth. "*Ang gling-gling naman*," he'd tell buxom beauty contestants as naturally as he'd compliment award-winning commercials. "I started the taglish trend in interviews," he volunteers, "and the sound effects: *woooh-woooh-woooh!*!" He was also, depending on the occasion, both frenetic—averaging a thousand words a minute when he did his stand-up routine—and inscrutably laid-back while interviewing people.

Now much older at 58, A
mainly the ease that makes
Show" a novelty on its 6 p.m. t
Monday and Wednesday, wit
midnight and weekends. Whil
Philippine television is on an ad
reporting the latest on the Ga
Kris Aquino's love life, ANC ha
mustachioed guy comfortably
chatting up his guests, disc
Navarro's golf handicap at one
rector Joey Javier Reyes' favor
another—a perfect foil to the p
unleashed by the 6 o'clock new
(very light)," is how Ariel descr

'My Favorite Sho

The concept started with
thought of: "'My Favorite Show.
dating?" he says with unab
Latching on to the 'favorites
show could have sagged into a
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the guy's bonhomie, his roaring
the production staff's thorough
their guests, have so far marked
an easygoing, intelligent and re
cap the day. The surveys indic
Ariel claims. "We started the
May 9, and during the first m
number 1 on ANC's 6 pm slot, a
overall in the whole station," sa

It's good to be back in front of
he continues. From being made
sultant "who was expected to j
to doing occasional voice-over
and becoming associate direc
shows, he's ready for his close-u
Ariel.

Not that being anonymous v
he backtracks. In fact, he says, i
how good it felt to have a wife
dren, he'd have gotten married
then I wouldn't have met my
gallantly, glancing at his m
whom he married some 22 year
36, she was 18 and just starting

"I was hosting a concert
when I saw this pretty coed wh
later, is the niece of Pete and
Roa," he recounts. "She was only
I had quite a reputation so Bo
made sure they were always a
came visiting." She was a curio
he recalls, one who always ask
ical questions that would send
arly Ariel into the library to
"When I was a boy and used t
awkward questions, he would
me, (*adopting a gruff tone*), 'go
in the dictionary.' So I vowed
have my own children, I woul
swer their questions, no matter

Father-daughter attr

It was, in a way, a father-da
tion, Ariel concedes now. "She
intelligent and I would look at h
think, '*aampunin ko itong batan*
going to adopt this girl).'" Sh
felt the same way, Boot ackno
parents separated when I was v
I guess, subconsciously, I mu
looking for a father figure." The
ried three years later, "becaus
from some relatives," says Ar
have four children ages 21, 18,
made it as far as second year
her husband asked her to stay
nagseselos ako (I was feeling je
admits. Otherwise, says Boot,
bait-bait-bait. He's a spoiler." W
occasions when he grumbles
them around, she adds. "I gue
tigue factor," says the official
who asked that the interview
after he had fetched and brou
kids from school.

The totally domesticated A
that he's not that sure he can
the younger set, the bubbly VJs
idol hosts that populate local T
so he's scouring familiar grou
ing with people who already k
working from there," he says.
be easy, since he knows his
graphics by heart. In fact, he li
married with children, balanci
career, likes to remember good
to dream big.

"I want to influence televisio
vide really good and respecta
ment," says Ariel wistfully. "Bu
to become famous so people w
and I can sell them anything."
confidently, an accessible goal.
before, and I know I can do it a

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Artwatch

A Harvard Summa Cum Laude Crochets A Cocoon In Search of Her Place of Origin

by Joy Rojas

Talented visual artist Bea Camacho has travelled the world all her life as her parents follow their career path. No wonder that this eldest daughter of former Finance Secretary Lito Camacho would choose to confront issues of distance and belonging in her unusual and autobiographical body of work

SINCE teaching herself how to crochet from instructions downloaded from the Net, Roberta "Bea" Camacho has yet to make a scarf or a sweater. But her creations, all intended for her course in Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University, are more of emotional statements rather than fashionable ones.

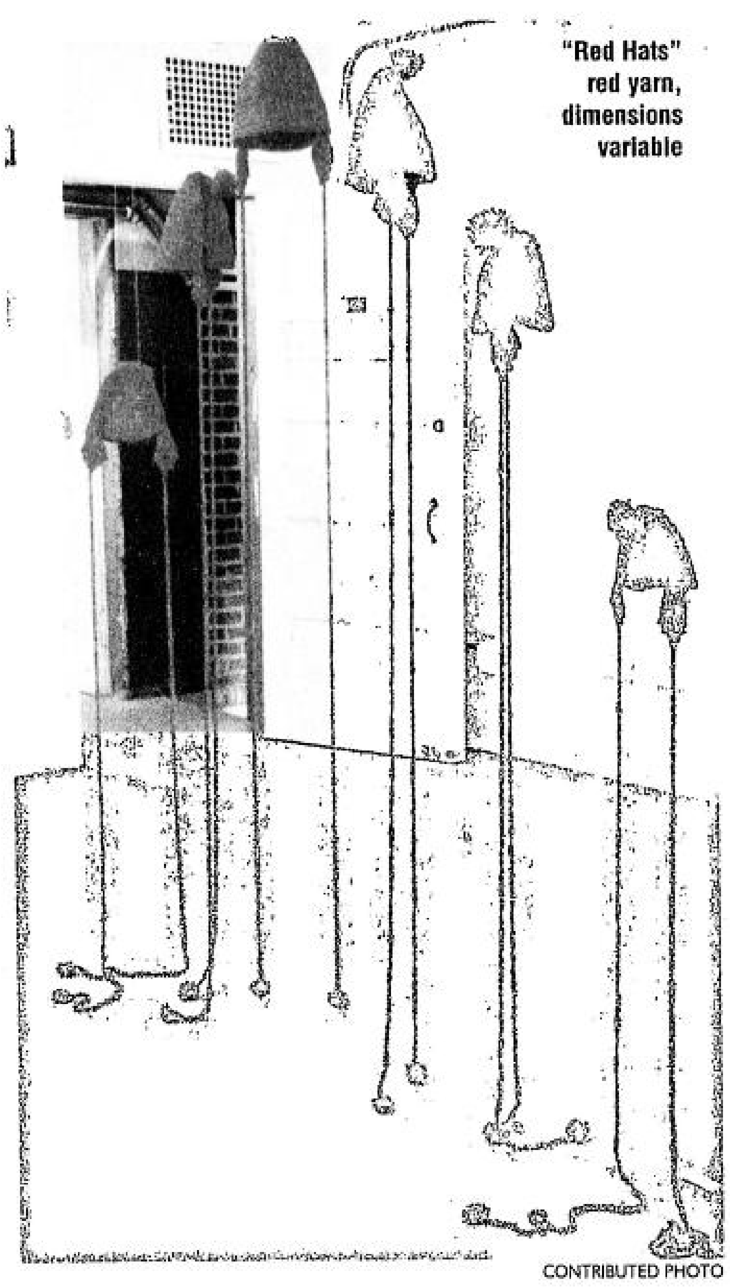
And what a way she has woven for herself, graduating *summa cum laude* and with multiple honors (the Albert Alcalay Prize, the David McCord Prize for Achievement in the Arts, and the John Harvard and Harvard College Scholarships for academic distinction).

Separated from her family for years because of school, Camacho once crocheted hats for her parents and siblings, drawing mostly from memories of sporadic vacations. The hats, which naturally didn't quite fit right, came with strings cut to Camacho's height—her attempt at giving them a physical representation of herself. Meanwhile, "Extensions," appears to be a representation of gloves gone wrong. With their long, tentacle-like fingers and hands the size and shape of tennis rackets, they make reaching out for an embrace impossible.

Working nonstop

And then there's her senior thesis, which involved the fascinating and laborious task of crocheting herself into a cocoon. Camacho, who drank little the night before and snacked on a Power Bar minutes before the job, needed 11 hours and seven balls of bright red yarn to encase her slight and fragile five-foot-three-inch frame. Any thoughts of hunger, thirst or going to the bathroom dissipated within the first hour as she worked nonstop, starting with a large patch which she sat on, followed by the absorbing process of crocheting herself from the feet up. "A lot of the time I was just focused on what I was doing and how it was going to come together," she says.

By the last hour, Camacho, who had begun to sing songs in her head, was crunched over and crocheting from the inside out, her eyes smarting from the fine fibers of the yarn. Locking up the last stitch, she lay still and fell asleep for about five minutes before waking up and unraveling herself. At last, a dazed and teary-eyed Camacho stepped out of the yarn to a group of applauding friends who were there to videotape the entire process, which took place in the corner of a gallery.



"Red Hats"
red yarn,
dimensions
variable

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Comfortable place

Likening the experience to running a marathon, "where what you're doing is all you think about until you finish," Camacho found the crocheted cocoon "surprisingly comfortable, warm and cozy." In that case, mission accomplished. "I didn't want this to be a tortuous thing at all," says Camacho. "For me, it was about creating something that everybody needs, a comfortable place. It was also a bit about putting yourself back in the womb, searching for origin, looking for a place of belonging."

Issues of origin and belonging crop up constantly in Camacho's works. The eldest of former Finance Secretary Jose Isidro "Lito" Camacho's and Maria Clara "Kim" Acuña's six kids, Bea was born in the Philippines but lived wherever her parents' work would take them: Tokyo for a year, Hong Kong for three and a half years. At 11, she was uprooted again, this time on her own, to boarding school at Wycombe Abbey, about 20 minutes outside Oxford, England.

Having gotten used to all the traveling by then, Camacho thought it an exciting time and regarded 11 as "Oh my God, so grown up. Double digits!" she cheers. "It was actually easier for me than most of my friends. My roommate who lived in London which was just 40 minutes away from school would be crying every night, and I was the person who'd be comforting her all the time!"

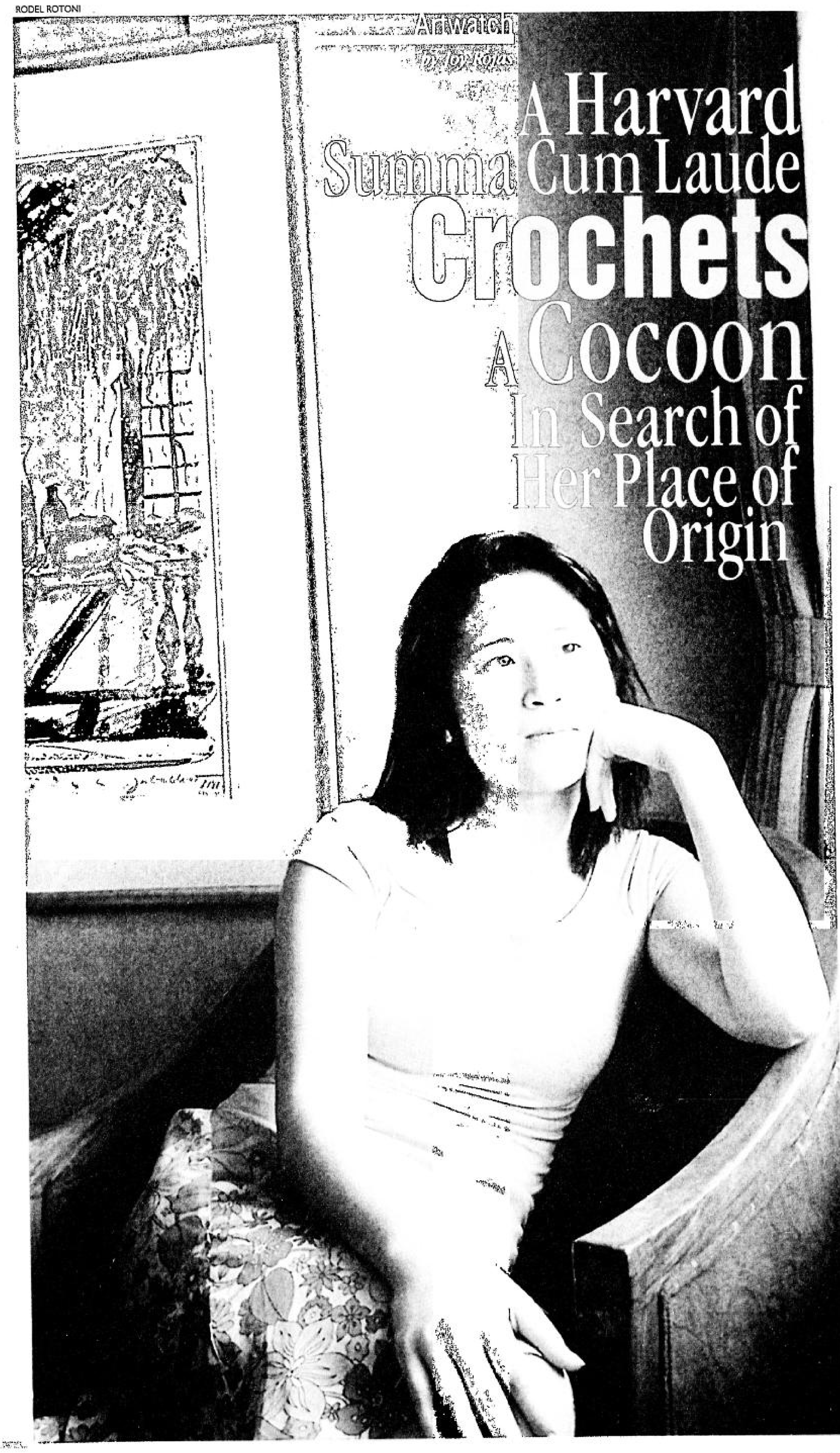
That Camacho chose to go to Harvard, the same school where her parents studied, met and fell in love, is coincidence. Their true influence, she believes, lies in her appreciation for the arts, "particularly from the collector's side," she says. Like her dad, she thought of pursuing architecture, and studied it briefly in the summer of 2004 in a career discovery program at Harvard Graduate School of Design. From her mother, who ran her own fashion jewelry design business and was once appointed country manager and Philippine representative of Sotheby's, she developed an interest in crafts and working with her hands.

As an artist, Camacho initially dabbled in abstract figures interpreted in a variety of mediums. It was in her junior year at a class called Conceptual Practice, that her works would take an autobiographical turn. Camacho, who only flew to the Philippines during Christmas, Easter and summer, poured plaster in a mailing box then stepped in to create an imprint of her feet. When it dried, she put in a cassette tape filled with the sound of her walking through a typical day. "I kind of thought about my experience of living in England, how my mom and I would write each other often, but how that never felt quite sufficient. You never can really get a message across through the mail," she explains. "The idea was to package an experience, to put presence and experience inside a very physical object. This for me was the first step to confronting distance and separation and the things that mattered to me at the time."

Other projects along those issues followed. Camacho who was not around when some of her younger siblings were born, laughs at the time her youngest brother once introduced her to their *lola* as "Bea, my friend." Although the two are now close, the themes of memory and forgetting are aptly and eerily captured in a book that begins with a photocopy of

To page 7

RODEL ROTONI



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The Artist Abroad

Luis H. Francia

If it's true that the real leaders in any democracy are the people—that's all of us—then it is time to kick the oh-so-Catholic habit of yearning for redemption by heroic larger-than-life figures and look to our own selves for salvation

Revolutions Are Us

AKBAYAN
GLORIA ALIS D'YAN!
-AKBAYAN

PDI PHOTO

NEW YORK—Should she or shouldn't she? That is the question. Is it nobler for Gloria to bow before the slings and arrows of not-so-outrageous fortune by resigning, or bear arms against a tsunami of troubles by hanging tough? I thought it would be helpful, at least to me if not to the readers of this column, if I did an informal poll of willing friends and family members. Even before I conducted this ersatz survey, I knew what others believed was the right thing for the embattled head of state to do. I was well aware of what activist groups demanded: her immediate resignation.

Except for two respondents, who viewed the alternatives as worse than the status quo, everyone agreed that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo no longer deserved the highest office in the land. Expulsion, yes, but should that come about where intensive and relentless street demonstrations force her to resign, or through an impeachment process that demonstrates clear and irrevocable proof of her complicity in election rigging? There were as many assertions that she should resign straightaway, as there were those who believed impeachment was the better route. Without exception, all wished to see a government genuinely responsive to the needs of the majority, to have, in the end, a true democracy.

To those who focused principally on the moral and ethical issue, it was first things first: the deeper issue of long-lasting structural changes could be addressed subsequently. Here are some illustrative quotes:

- "The best thing is for Gloria to resign if she wants to have any semblance of self-respect. But unfortunately she has become too attached to power; it seems she would rather choose that than self-respect." In the view of this respondent, presidential elections require the expenditure of billions of pesos, thus "corrupting the person in the process of soliciting funds." He thought a parliamentary form of government might be more suited to the country.
- "GMA should be impeached or forced to resign. Then she should be tried and imprisoned. Stealing an election ... is possibly the worst crime a servant of democracy could do." This respondent then described what we have as a "cacique, comprador, and oligarch-dominated system that is a 'democracy' only for those with money and family connections."

And from those who favor the impeachment process:

- "I do not think she should resign on the basis of the decision of the court of public opinion. We must observe and respect the rule of law and the Constitution." This person feared that the fickleness of public opinion would ultimately lead to anarchy.
- "They should impeach her if they want, and convict her if they can. At least that's vox pop and not vox mob." The respondent prefaced these remarks with his belief that she "should not resign" as "every politician in Manila does what she did, so nobody should be casting the first stone. Besides, all the alternatives are worse."

And from those who believe GMA should stay on, as they see no viable alternative:

- "She should not resign. There is no clearly qualified replacement. Philippine politics dirties everyone's clothes so the ideal president would be the candidate wearing the cleanest clothes—relatively speaking."
- "And who would take the place of Gloria? Ping Lacson? No, thank you! Or Noli de Castro? Please *naman*! Erap, not on your life! Are the oppositionists serious, or do they just want to grab power? No, I am not for Gloria's resigning but buckling up and given the chance to continue, with a very attentive and alert citizenry." On the other hand, this respondent described the state of affairs as "one big cancer which needs cleansing," a statement rife with revolutionary implications.

A fourth group acknowledged that the president must resign-whether now or later didn't matter—but didn't think it would mean anything in the long run. A businesswoman stated: "She should [step down] if she understands how fast the Philippines is going down the drain and she's contributing to its rapid decline. [But] whether she goes or not doesn't really mean a lot in terms of real changes happening in the country." Another—a nurse—wondered about "a viable alternative to the leadership vacuum to be created" by her resignation. Even if Gloria did resign, it would be business as usual: "Most of the time the country ends up [as] a badly directed and/or scripted movie." A real-estate broker held little hope: "Either way, I think another greedy and corrupt politician will probably replace GMA, if she does not rig the impeachment proceedings, too."

Indeed, these last sentiments reflect a creeping, and surely widespread, despair that, as the French say, "the more things change, the more things remain the same." No one is enthused about Vice-President Noli de Castro succeeding Gloria. In fact, no one is enthused about continuation of business as usual under the *trapo* elite; its members have bent, twisted, and changed beyond recognition Asia's supposedly oldest democracy. One need only look at those jockeying for position—the Marcoses, Erap and his supporters, Ping Lacson and his camp—to be reminded of hyenas circling a wounded beast.

Whether she goes or not is in the long run not the only or even the main conversation we should be having nationally. On at least two occasions during the past two decades, that national dialogue began but fizzled out: Edsa I in 1986, and Edsa Dos in 2000. In both instances, there was genuine hope (more fervid in 1986) that here at last was an opportunity for positive moves toward a real, democratic government. So high were our hopes and expectations during the Cory years that the ensuing cascade of disappointments embittered many. And Gloria, for all her reputation as a knowledgeable, hard-working executive, failed to rise above the political muck.

This time around, the crowds, whether pro or anti, are less than overwhelming, reflecting public fatigue, unease, and, yes, cynicism. As a way out of this maddening ritual of quick fixes that winds up with us chasing after our own tails, progressive sectors have proposed a transitional council. At heart a good idea, the proposal lacks detail: Who will compose the council, and how will its members be chosen? What will be its aims? However much the rule of law and the electoral process have been exploited by the powerful and the privileged, you'd still need just laws and the ballot box, to give all citizens fair and equal representation.

If it's true that the real leaders in any democracy are the people—that's all of us—then it is time to kick the oh-so-Catholic habit of yearning for redemption by heroic larger-than-life figures and look to our own selves for salvation. To march in the streets and shout at the top of one's lungs is wonderfully cathartic, exhilarating, much recommended, and necessary, but these should only be prelude to the mini-revolutions that need to take place in the way we as individuals relate to Filipino society. It can be as straightforward as refusing to bribe a cop for a traffic violation, or tycoons paying what they owe in taxes, or as difficult as a poor man turning down pesos meant to buy his vote or the restive military confining themselves to barracks. A thousand such acts—no, millions of such acts—will have an immeasurable impact. It may be that I am dreaming, that the heat wave gripping this city has affected my brain, but given the mess we have made of the country, can you blame me?

Love Notes

Joe D. Mango

Keeping in Touch

Now that I'm settled here in Canada with my husband, Bong and I have restricted our contact with each other. But I hear he's having problems with his wife. Can I still email him to share my thoughts?

Dear Joe,

I'm Anna and I'm in my mid thirties. I created this e-mail account for my private use because my husband has access to my other e-mail. I also use this account to communicate with Bong, my best friend since college days.

Allan and I have been married for seven years and have two kids aged 6 and 4. I have a college friend, Bong, who had a girlfriend named Malou, although their relationship was an on and off thing. In college, Bong had always been open about his feelings for me, but I had always been cautious about what I feel towards him because Malou's friends were my classmates and I didn't want them to think that I was the reason for the couple's rocky relationship.

Bong is a sweet and honest person and I introduced him to a high school friend, Lani, who easily fell for his kindness. But Bong only wanted friendship with her and said he had feelings for me instead. Again, I made sure I gave him safe answers to avoid hurting Lani should she find out that Bong was courting me instead.

After college, we continued to communicate and go out on dates although I always let Lani come along to be safe. Despite the dates, Bong continued his on-and-off relationship with Malou. When we both started working, I met Allan and married him after two years of going steady. By this time, Bong and Malou had also gotten married, and when I attended their wedding, I felt no sparks between us anymore. So I thought we were finally over each other.

Allan migrated to Canada and I followed a year later. During Allan's absence, I called up Bong and from then on, we talked regularly over the phone. He confessed that he still feels something for me and I admitted as much. We started calling each other regularly, saying how much we love and miss each other and wondering "What if we had gotten married instead?"

I know it's wrong, but I can't help myself. I miss him more than I miss my husband. I tried telling Bong that we should stop talking like we're a couple, but he wouldn't let go. I found myself unable to let go as well. Bong's become part of me already, and I always think of him and anticipate his calls. When he does call, I feel like a giggly adolescent again.

We met a total of four times that year. First, to have lunch, and later, to have dinner. The first two dates, we only had friendly conversation, with no mention of our feelings for each other because we avoided talking about it. But our last two meetings were very intimate, as if all the love we've had for each other since college finally spilled over and overwhelmed us. But mind you, there was no penetration at all—just kissing, hugging and touching. But it was still wrong to have allowed ourselves to get carried away and commit adultery. To be honest, I feel guilty, but at that time, my feelings for Bong were stronger and it didn't feel wrong at all. It was like it was meant to be. Now I understand how mistresses feel because I've become one of them.

Now that I'm settled here in Canada with Allan, I no longer get to talk to Bong and I know I should now exercise some control over the situation. Bong and I still e-mail each other though we're both trying to restrict that. I know it's not fair to both Allan and Malou, and I know that I'm at fault here because I've encouraged Bong to be open about his feelings which I also entertained.

With the distance now between us, I just hope that he'd be happy with his married life. He tells me his wife is quite domineering and doesn't want to listen to what he says. As for me, I'm happy that Allan and I are together now as a family. I'm hoping that I would finally get over Bong.

But Joe, can I still communicate with Bong through e-mail, or should I just stop so I can help him and myself to forget our feelings for each other? Or should I e-mail him my thoughts so as to be fair to him?

Anna

Dear Anna,

Sharing your thoughts about this with Bong will definitely enlighten him. I know that sometimes it is very difficult to keep our focus on just one person, specially if a part of our heart still longs for someone else. You are married to Allan but somehow you are still entertaining the thought of having a relationship with another married man. You have come to the point of unmindfully living a part of your life as if you were still single and uncommitted. Remember, no matter how miserable Bong's life is with his wife, that doesn't give any of you reason to disregard the fact that you are both married and have families of your own.

Being away from Bong will help you a lot in trimming down your communication which obviously keeps the fires inside you burning. But no distance nor time can change the way you feel for him. The change should come from you. No matter where you are or how long it takes, you have bring it upon yourself to let him go. No matter how right being with him and thinking about him feels, it is still unfair to your families. We simply cannot be truly happy at the expense of our own family's happiness.

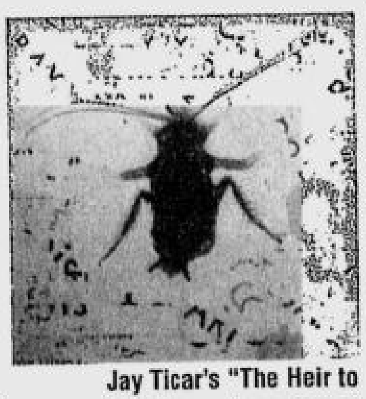
Anna, just think of how blessed you are and be thankful for having a wonderful family. Let Bong fix his own life and do not make it harder by trying to fix it with him. Live your life looking ahead and not looking back at what could have been. Remember, the best gift that we can give our families is our undivided love and attention.

This Week

Art

Finale Art Gallery presents **Goodbye Cruel World**, a solo exhibit featuring the cutting-edge paintings and sculptures by Patricia Eustaquio until Aug. 2 at Level 4, SM Megamall A.

In celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Philippines-China diplomatic relations, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation is mounting a **China Visit Photo Exhibit** until Aug. 9 at the NCCA Building, 633 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila. The exhibit highlights the photos of Philippine tourist destinations side by side with photos taken by FPPF members during a visit in China. For details, call 527-2175.



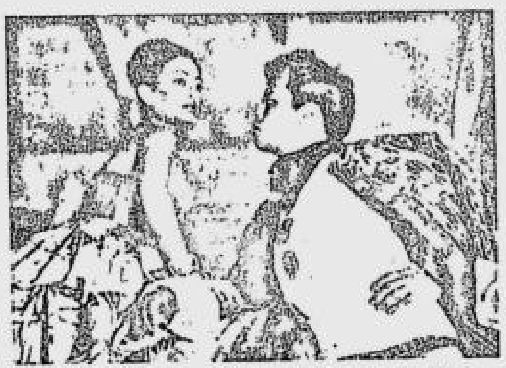
Jay Ticar's "The Heir to the Throne," on view at Mag:net Gallery ABS

Serena Gerona-Borras, a pioneering proponent of batik on paper painting in the country, holds her second solo painting exhibit, ***Batik—Ang Gamit*** at the National Telecommunications Commission Gallery until Aug. 12.

Pressure Points, a solo exhibit of paintings by Jay Ticar at Mag:net Gallery ABS, The Loop, ABS-CBN Compound, Mother Ignacia Avenue, QC until Aug. 13. For details, call 410-0995.

Contempong Pinas Landscapes, a group show by Raoul Rodriguez, Fernan Escora, Kristoffer Ardeña, Jamel Obnamia, Norman Posecion and Hong Soon Myung at the White Main Gallery and Black Gallery of Kulay Diwa Art Galleries from Aug. 5-29. The artists are challenged to come up with a number of small works reflecting nuances of their individual artmaking and working with contemporary landscape concepts. Kulay Diwa Art Galleries is located at # 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque. For details, call 826-0574 and 0921-7452144.

Tadpole to Frog, a new set of acrylic paintings on canvas and sculptural pieces by Roberto M.A. Robles at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A from Aug. 3-30.



Tanghalang Pilipino brings "R'meo Luvs Dew-Ihiett" to the CCP

Music

Concert at the Park this Sunday at 5 p.m. presents the youth-oriented band The New Exist, composed of Bomber, Chester, Gail, Jay, Shaun and Chloe Ann—all from the musically talented Pascua family of Nueva Ecija. To be held at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. Admission is free.

Onstage

Powerful emotions and evocative dance come together as Ballet Philippines opens its 36th season with **Men and Women** on Aug. 5-7 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Main Theater. The battle of the sexes, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks struggling for human dignity or perhaps an ordinary couple's simple encounter. These and more are the stories behind the dance opus. "Men and Women" is choreographed by Bam Damian, Alden Lugnasin and guest choreographer Enrico Labayen. In October, Ballet Philippines restages its unforgettable collaboration with Ryan Cayabyab of "Neo-Filipino Playing Maestro Ryan." "An Angel Earns His Wings" goes on stage Dec. 3-20, and the sensual, full-blooded tango infused with contemporary dance comes alive in "Tango Filipino/La Divina" on March 10-12, 2006. For tickets, call 832-6011 or 551-1003.

Koiné Theater Foundation One Acts Theater restages Niel de Mesa's brilliant comedy, **Starring Miss Lea Salonda**, on Aug. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. The farcical satire pokes fun at local professional theater practices. The play runs in tandem with a new work by Jihan Estrella, **SAWI: Single Ako Warning Ito**, a critique on people whose perennial hobby is to ask the singles' dreaded question: "*May* boyfriend *ka na ba*?" and the follow-up, "*Bakit wala pa*?" Koiné One Acts is located at 2/F, FORAB Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC. For reservations, call 410-4485.

Tanghalang Pilipino opens its 19th season with a very modern adaptation of William Shakespeare's immortal love story, loosely based on National Artist Rolando Tinio's Filipino translation—**R'meo Luvs Dew-Ihiett**. Set in the slums of Manila (Barangay Verona) where the "jologs" culture thrives, the production takes a fresh look on this romance with the star-crossed lovers and their warring households dressed up in kitschy denim couture, uttering sonnets peppered with brazen street jargon and cryptic swardspeak. Showdates: Aug. 5, 6, 19, 20, 26, 27, at 8 p.m.; Aug. 6, 7, 20, 21, 27, 28, at 3 p.m. at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino; Sept. 9, 10, 16, 17, at 8 p.m.; Sept. 10, 11, 17, 18, at 3 p.m. at Tanghalang Huseng Batute. For tickets, reservations and special performances, call 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621.

The REP Children's Theater production of **The Emperor's New Clothes** opens on Aug. 6 at REP's Globe Theater at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 at 10:30 a.m. This production is a rollicking musical version by Jim Eiler and Jeanne Bargy of a vain but lovable emperor who loves to dress and who demands new clothes for a special parade in honor of the birth anniversary of a long-lost son. Tickets are available at all Ticketworld outlets, Ayala cinema booths and the REP box office.

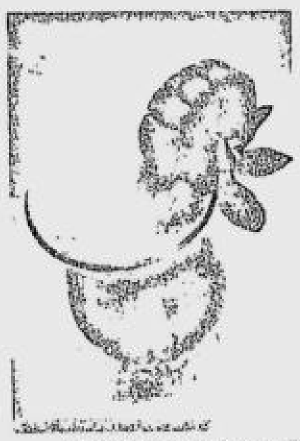
Food

Manila Pavilion gets into the fitness mode by featuring **Rosy Cheeks**, a concoction made up of carrot juice, pineapple juice and Havana rum. The cocktail drink is available in all of the hotel's dining outlets. Every order comes with a free stuffed toy. For inquiries, call 526-1212 ext. 2647.

Spend a great night out with friends at **Una Mas** Greenbelt and Greenhills and treat yourselves to a deliciously big **Tapa Platter**, with Ostras con Espinacas and Vino Blanco, Tortilla de Patata, Beef Croquettes, Empanada, Crispy Kangkong, Breaded Onion Rings, Vegetable Sticks and Pork Tapa with special aioli sauce. Available Mondays to Fridays from 6:30 to 10 p.m. For inquiries, call 723-0012 (Greenhills) and 757-3357 or 757-3358 (Greenbelt).

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Ballet Philippines stages "Men and Women" at the CCP in August



Enjoy "Rosy Cheeks," August's featured drink at the Manila Pavilion Hotel

Atbp

Watch out for the **DitaSandicoOng annual full moon sale** at her store in 35 Wilson St., Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila from Aug. 1-19. Find vintage DitaSandicoOng pieces to update your wardrobe to give it a touch of the modern Filipiniana look, mix and match old pieces with the new ones to create a new look. The sale would also be a perfect opportunity to spot old pieces made of piña and banana fiber at bargain prices. For details, call 726-7260 or 726-5102.

Witness the quest for the best bartender when T.G.I. Friday's **Shake, Rattle and Pour 2005 Bartender Championship** returns on Aug. 4 at 3:30 p.m. at the Alabang Town Center Activity Area. To vie for the championship are Jesus "Slush" Rivera (Sta. Lucia), Arnold "Fireman" Santos (Malate), Ed "Shadow" Yonzon (Quezon City), Ruel "Twister" Cuadra (Alabang), and defending champion Jojo "Vanilla Ice" Almanza (Glorietta). Friday's features not only fancy showmanship but also focuses on the technical aspect of bartending, tough quizzes on menu items, current events and comprehensive skill test based on two segments—Compulsory and Freestyle. The winner will represent the country in the regional tilt to be held in Taiwan in October. The regional winner will then compete in the World Bartender Championship in Las Vegas, USA.

Oragonrepublic.com, premier Bicolano website, is accepting submissions for its first anniversary print literary folio. Manuscripts (poems or prose, fiction or non-fiction and written in any of the Bicol languages) should be sent to oragonrepublicfolio1@atenista.net. Deadline has been moved to Aug. 10, to accommodate more entries. Poems previously published in OragonRepublic.com will also be considered for publication. Submissions must include a bio-note (brief background info on the author). OragonRepublic.com is a non-profit community website and portal for Bicolnons and anyone who feels an affinity for the place and its people. For inquiries, please email Hagbayon at tarusan22@yahoo.com or the Webmaster at fbb@oragonrepublic.com.

Art Informal, the artist-run learning center for art and creativity, offers a selection of **new art classes** in August. For adults 15 years old and above, Art Informal offers lessons in Introductory Drawing, Drawing Techniques, Drawing from Life, Oil Painting (beginner to advanced levels), Watercolor, Basic Sculpture (Terracotta), Portrait Bust Sculpture, Basic and Intermediate Photography and Creativity Workshop. Also offered are lectures in Traditional Wood Carving, Art Appreciation, Figure Drawing, Reproducing the Masters (Painting) and Pottery. For children's classes, the following workshops are offered: Painting Explorations, Arts and Crafts, Introduction to Drawing and Watercolor, Introduction to Drawing and Acrylic, Basic Printmaking and Sculpture. The pottery workshop for beginners will start on Aug. 2. For inquiries, call telefax 725-8518 or text 0920-2132972 and 0918-8261253. Art Informal is located at 277 Connecticut St., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Graduates of the Chemistry Department of the Ateneo de Manila University are invited to attend their first grand alumni homecoming titled **Ateneo Chemistry at 40: Building on Schmitt's Legacy** on the Dec. 17, from 4 to 11 p.m. Organized jointly by Ateneo's Chemistry Department, the Ateneo Chemical Society and the Management of Applied Chemistry Association, the homecoming will also occasion the re-launching of the William J. Schmitt Foundation and the Amando F. Kapauan Chair, both named after the country's distinguished chemists. The affair aims to generate funds for the Schmitt foundation and the Kapauan chair to endow perpetual scholarships for graduate students and help maintain the department's state-of-the-art equipment and facilities that set Ateneo's students at par with industrial countries. For details, call Aran San Juan at 0916-5061786 or Armando M. Guidote Jr., at the Chemistry Department at 426-6001 loc. 5620. You may also send your emails to aguidote@yahoo.com.

Basic Poetry Writing. A seminar-workshop on classical, haiku and free verse writing to be held on Aug. 20 at ISIS International Convention Center, #3 Marunong St., Quezon City. For details, call 285-2449 or (0916) 3622406.

The training and management consulting division of Environmental Counselors, Inc. is offering the following courses: **Pollution Control Officer Training Course**, a 4-day modular training program composed of group activities, lectures from environmental and technical professionals and a plant visit meant to equip you with the skills and knowledge required for PCO Accreditation by the DENR-EMB (Aug. 23-26; Sept. 20-23; Oct. 18-21, and Nov. 22-25); **Environmental Law Awareness Seminar**—one day seminar designed for CEOs, managers and other company officers and staff who would like a comprehensive introduction to environmental laws in the Philippines (Aug. 31 and Nov. 16). The seminars will be held at ECI Training Center, Unit F, 9th Floor, Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For registration, call Cathie at 637-6626 to 27, or (0920) 9240562.

Anvil Publishing Inc. announces the release of the latest edition of the best-selling **Philippine Literature: A History and Anthology** by Bienvenido Lumbera and Cynthia Nograles Lumbera. The classic college textbook has undergone significant changes owing to the development in scholarly research in Philippine literature. The latest edition features the same literary pieces-riddles, proverbs, short poems, songs, myths, folktales, legend, epic and short fiction-all translated in English. The book is available in all National Bookstore outlets.

In celebration of the 38th founding anniversary of the Association of South East Asian Nation, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts is inviting the country's editorial cartoonists to join the first **Asean Editorial Cartoon Contest**. The contest is open to all editorial cartoonists whose works are published in either the national broadsheets or tabloids, and in regional/provincial or community newspapers. Entries in the form of clippings of the editorial cartoon, of whatever size, should have been published from July 26 to August 12, 2005. The cartoonist's/artist's insight as reflected in his short commentary or explanatory note will be given weight in the selection of winners. Entries must be submitted to the NCCA International Affairs Office, 6th Floor NCCA Bldg., 633 General Luna St., Intramuros, Manila until Aug. 12. For inquiries, call telefax 527-5529.

Enchang Kaimo plays the elephant empress in Repertory Philippines' "The Emperor's New Clothes"

The **inauguration of Nude Room** at Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo St., Barangay San Antonio, Makati City will be held on Aug. 2. Featured are some women artists: Shirley Craford from Canada, Shibani Mishra from India, Vanitha Jayaselan from Singapore, Jessie Ooi from Malaysia, Kimiko Okamura from Japan and Susan Mendoza from the USA. For inquiries, call 811-2432.

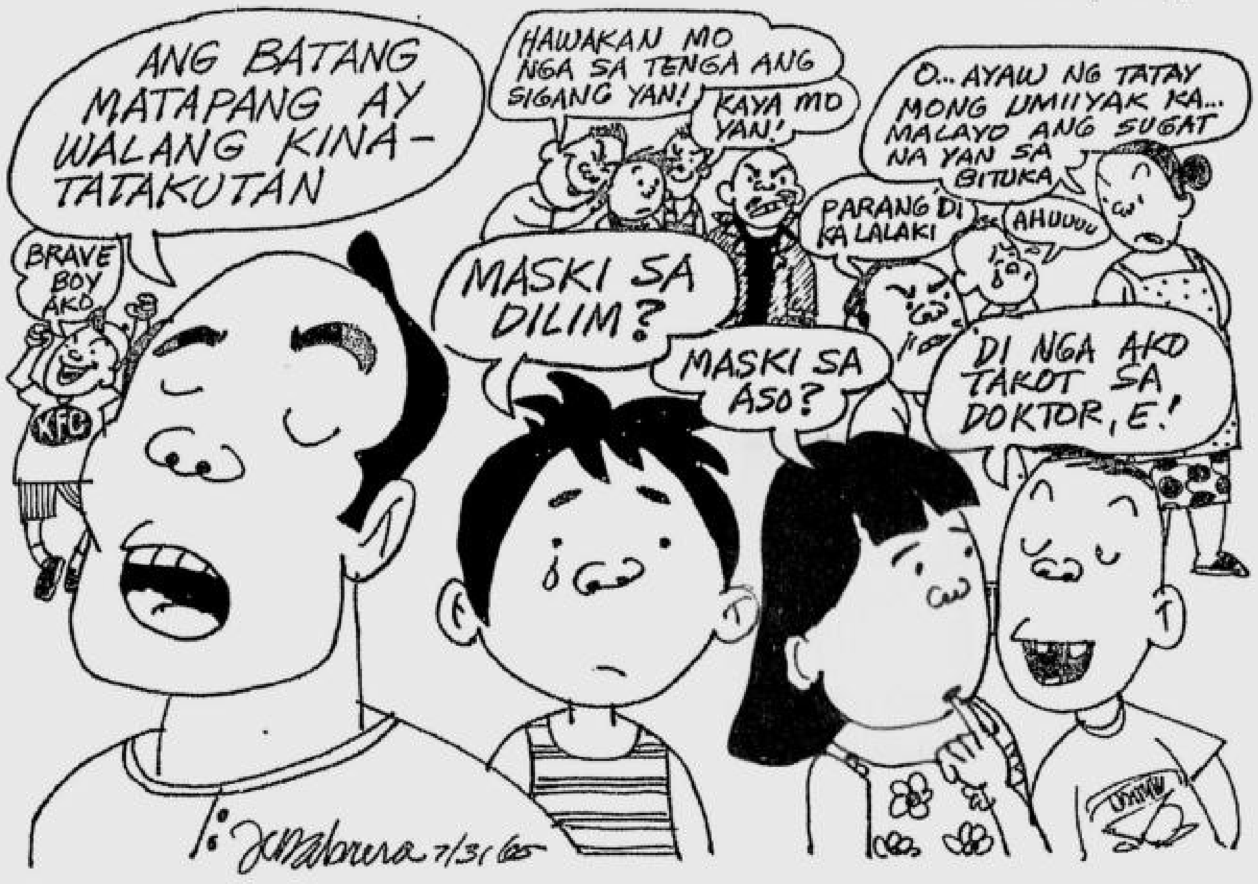
X-manila

Kagat sa T'nalak **(The Act of Biting the T'nalak)**, a full length dance-drama spectacle by the Kahayag Community Dance and Theater Company from the City of Koronadal, South Cotabato performs at the Central Philippines University centennial celebration, Aug. 5, 7 p.m., Rose Memorial Hall, Jaro, Iloilo City. For details, call 0918-2577087.

Pinoy Nga!

Jess Abrera

Katapangan


ANG BATANG MATAPANG AY WALANG KINATATAKUTAN
BRAVE BOY AKO
KFC
HAWAKAN MO NGA SA TENGA ANG SIGANG YAN!
KAYA MO YAN!
O... AYAW NG TATAY MONG UMIIYAK KA... MALAYO ANG SUGAT NA YAN SA BITUKA
PARANG DI KA LALAKI
AHUUUU
MASKI SA DILIM?
MASKI SA ASO?
DI NGA AKO TAKOT SA DOKTOR, E!
JXAbrera 7/31/05

For ...from page 5

her young brother's picture. The photocopy is then photocopied, and that photocopy is photocopied, until the image disappears altogether at the end of the book 100 pages later.

Crocheting would prove an effective medium for Camacho's themes, partly because it allowed her to create the fabrics herself, and partly for its inherent symbolism. "For me, crocheting is associated with the home—not the Philippines but a western idea of home, slightly idealized like in storybooks where you have a grandmother knitting by the fireplace," she explains. "Crocheting symbolizes a longing for that."

While Camacho is actually grateful for the experience of living apart ("It's taught me independence and how to take care of myself"), one wonders what sort of impact her art, so uncoventional and intimate all at once, has on her parents. "My mom thinks it's sad," she admits, "but she supposes it's only to be expected since I spent so much time away from the family. She also said that despite the themes in my work, she's happy to see that I don't suffer from emotional problems and am not emotionally dysfunctional.

"But I want to emphasize that the work I did discussing these themes came at a particular time in my life and are not the only focus of my art making," she stresses. "I do not expect to dwell on these themes. Although these issues proved very useful in bringing out a series of works that was honest and visually, conceptually and emotionally compelling, they are only some of the many subjects that I am interested in."

Ethereal quality

Indeed, Camacho, with her little voice, slender built, pleasant and polite demeanor, and that ethereal quality about her, is anything but the bitter and brooding artist that her works suggest her to be. At Harvard, she led a fairly active campus life, taking pictures for the Harvard Crimson and playing indie and electronic music in her capacity as a DJ for Harvard's radio station WHRB. Typical of kids her age, 22, she attended a lot of concerts and even went as far as tracking down, in New Orleans with a friend, one of her favorite musicians, an eccentric lo-fi artist named Quintron and his wife Miss Pussycat.

Now in Manila, "spending the longest time I've ever been with my family since I was 11," Camacho is firming up plans for an exhibition in October at Gallery Joaquin. The idea, she says, is to showcase existing works, pieces she produced for school. "It's kind of weird having a show in Manila," she muses, "because a lot of my works are about distance from my family. So when I'm here I can't make work about being away from my family."

Besides, who can think of making art when there's all this catching up to do? Thus far, Camacho's days have been filled with the usual family activities: shopping, watching TV and the movies, and hanging out in her father's farm in Bay, Laguna. At the end of the month, she will fly with her family to Singapore where her dad is set to work as Vice Chairman for Asia in Credit Suisse. She can then shuttle back and forth to Manila. After her October exhibit, she's off again, either to Boston or New York where she intends to get a job in product design and pursue her master's degree in industrial design.

Given Camacho's yearning for home, the decision to live away from the family once again is an ironic one. But for the talented artist who has found comfort and connection in schoolmates and teachers, an offbeat musician from New Orleans, and even a crocheted cocoon, it all makes perfect sense. "I've never really known exactly where 'home' is. I used to call school 'home' which was weird for some of my friends. But I guess that's part of what the cocoon project was all about," she says with a smile. "Making a place for yourself, wherever you are." Q

Stylewatch

by Larry Leviste

Designed By Destiny

After a 15-year detour to painting and banking, fashion designer Ito Curata finally accepted his real calling. His clients, who include Sharon Stone and President Arroyo, convinced him that he's made the right decision

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RAFFY LERMA

LONG before he gained official public recognition by being asked to design President Arroyo's gown for her State of the Nation Address, Ito Curata has been a byword among showbiz folk.

With the glamor that now comes with showbiz awards night , actresses have begun to seriously consider which gown and designer to choose. The media mileage and overnight peer respect that comes with the coveted Best Gown award—now handed out alongside acting trophies—have made the local red carpet the most dangerous catwalk in Manila. Coiffed bejeweled actresses and wannabets traverse it like a minefield, every step marking them out either as a fashion icon or fashion victim. The gowns they wear make or doom their designers as well.

Only two years ago, Cherie Gil wore a rambutan silk gazar gown with a *panuelo* tucked thru an obi by Curata, which won over Inno Sotto's white terno for Gretchen Baretto. Since then Curata has won Best Gown Award three times, as he dressed Maricel Soriano in that daring peony printed gown, Lani Mercado in bronze taffeta and Angel Locsin in an electric blue ruffled number that he finished in 24 hours.

But who is Ito Curata and why is he suddenly the important young designer to watch?

Ito trained in Hollywood for many years and got to dress Sharon Stone once for the Golden Globe Awards. He has also, through the intercession of bosom buddy Jo Ann Zapanta, gained access to President Arroyo. He softened GMA's severe tailored looks by easing her jackets into softer colors, removing her sleeve buttons and rounding off the outfit's lapels and hems. She has worn his creations at numerous functions including the APEC Summit.

Irresistible material

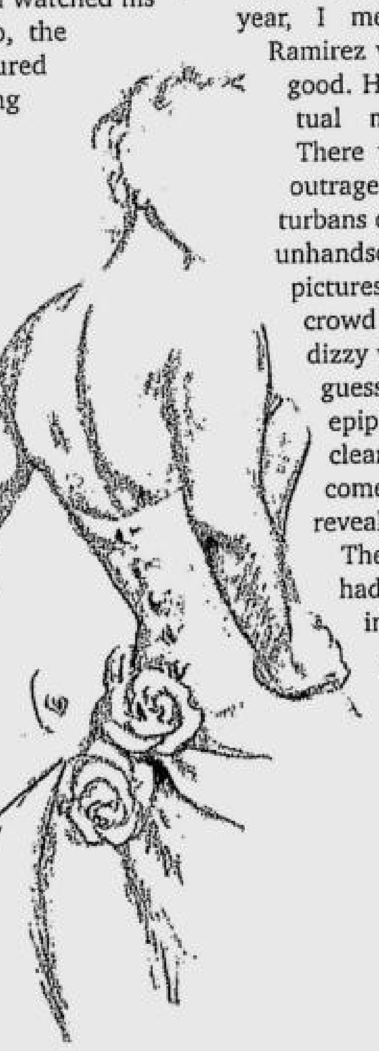
It has been a long journey made even more remarkable by the fact that Ito's fashion career was something he resisted for almost two decades. Born in Batangas City to parents who owned a dry goods store, Ito was exposed to fabrics as a 10-year-old boy. He found the materials irresistible.

He recounts with a hearty laugh: "My earliest memory was seeing a bolt of emerald-green alaskin that my mom had a *custorera* turn into a terno. Believe it or not, just by observing, I learned to make the perfect terno sleeves, *kanyamaso* (stiff net lining) and all. "

Ito remembers admiring the Manila-made gowns at the annual coronation of Miss Batangas. He recalls seeing the wedding gown of Susan Roces by Pitoy Moreno on the front page of a newspaper, and watching Sampaguita movies where Gloria Romero wore Ramon Valera masterpieces. As a young boy, Ito was cutting, basting and sewing tiny ternos for his sisters' Barbie dolls. And yet out of respect for his rather conservative father, he knew better than to ask if he could take up fashion designing.

At the age of 14, he went to Manila and watched his first fashion show. It was Bagong Anyo, the Imeldific fashion extravaganza that featured 50 of Manila's established and promising couturiers. Ito was dumbstruck. In his heart , he knew this was his calling but his mind convinced him to take a 15-year detour into painting, dance and photography. Resisting his dream was something he did out of consideration for his father whom he admired.

But Fate stepped in in the '70s. While a Fine Ats freshman in UP, Ito listened to a talk by Glenn Sitzner, an American college professor who knew his mother. Sitzner mentioned that his college frequently awarded scholarships for studies in the US. Ito won the grant and was transplanted to a college in Pennsylvania, after which he transferred to the University of San Francisco and the Academy of Art College, also in SFO. It was the flower power era when hippies preached freedom of expression, and Ito bloomed. He relished the American lifestyle which was structured, disciplined and yet independent. At school , he was serious with his classical art studies and painting, but outside the campus, he revelled in the virtual explosion of all forms of creativity.



"All art is related. This is my classical painting background sketching a bridal gown perfect for Manila"

Glorious time

"It was a glorious time to be in San Francisco," he recounts. "Everyone was young, daring, beautiful and talented and everything happened. There were no parameters." With the free-for-all stimuli, Ito soon got bored with the rigors of classical painting and switched to photography, "because it allowed modern techniques," he explains.

Ito continues: "In my sophomore year, I met the famous Dante Ramirez who had left Manila for good. His eccentric yet intellectual manner intrigued me. There we were, Dante styling outrageous draped gowns and turbans on six-foot tall, dark and unhandsome models, while I took pictures. Traffic stopped, a crowd was watching. I was dizzy with creative euphoria. I guess that was my moment of epiphany. Everything became clear. I finally decided to become a fashion designer," he reveals.

The painting major soon had Dante for a mentor. "He instilled in my mind that a person's talent must evolve, and must eventually be distilled into purist form. It meant I had to develop my own style. And that's why I don't read a lot of fashion magazines or compare my work with other designers. I may admire Halston's work or a JC Buendia suit, but my greatest competitor is myself. I wish to outdo and improve on my last creation."

But it was not enough to know one's true vocation. One must also have the resources to pursue the dream. For Ito back in the '80s, that meant working for a bank in the Bay Area for six years. The bank eventully transferred part of its operations to Los Angeles and Ito got a good severance package. Having earlier met his soulmate with whom he would start a 25-year companionship, Ito decided to pool their savings and open a modest dress shop on a street in the outer Mission area of San Francisco. Thinking of the Pinays that congregated in the area, Ito thought he would have a steady clientele. Wrong. They would always ask for discounts and change their minds about the designs. Their sensibilities were also incompatible with Ito's high brow fashion ideas.

Opening doors

"I decided to close the shop and looked around for a more affluent area," he recounts. He found the ideal location near Nob Hill and Van Ness Street. "I hired three seamstresses and an Adel Roostein mannequin for my vitrine, (display window)," Ito recalls. "My first creation was a black and fuchsia *peau de soie* (double-faced four-ply silk) ballgown with green gloves. One day, as I opened the shop's door, I saw a calling card that said Lourdes Livingston, San Francisco Chronicle, Fashion Editor," says Ito.

"I called her and several weeks later, I saw her boxed column called Fashion Discoveries. She sketched the front of the shop including the mannequin in the window, and described my shop as a salon with rare and beautiful formals in forbidden colors. A collection of elegant classics with exquisite craftsmanship. Over the next few weeks, I sold nearly 25 gowns. It was at this point that my career really took off.

"Since then, I've thanked God every day and apologized for not heeding his plan for me," says Ito. "I framed that little write-up and have kept it beside my designing desk. That was my big break. Soon I was invited to participate in San Francisco fashion shows with big name-designers. My most memorable was the annual fundraiser called Style 8 where I won my first fashion award. It was emerald green, just like the shade of my mom's terno when I was a child. I had come full circle," he says.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

"When I create, the fabrics speak to me. The skirt is double faced satin but has the look of indigo denim. The top is a vintage Hermes scarf. This is modern couture. Think PIECES"

Ito came home three years ago and is building his mansion in some remote locale. With his long time companion now retired, he is quietly accepting orders, especially for wedding gowns which is his forte.

If anything, Ito's journey to success is a fable about fate—and how God will deliver us to it despite our misgivings.

Ito Curata may be contacted through his mobile: 0917-8584535

IMAGE EVALUATION
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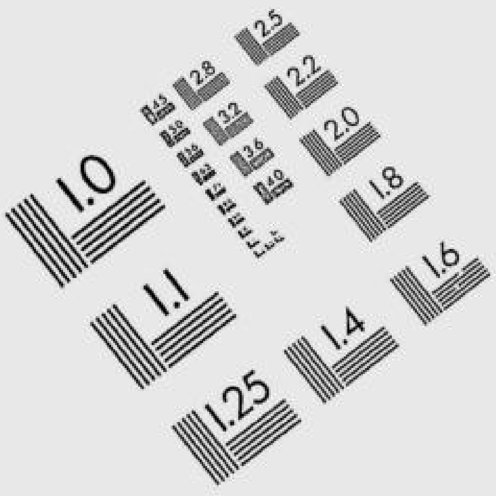
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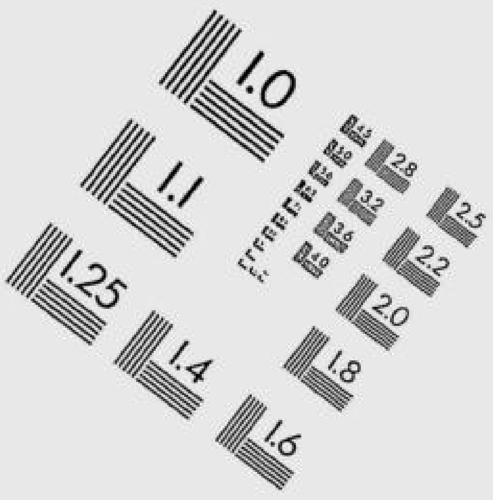
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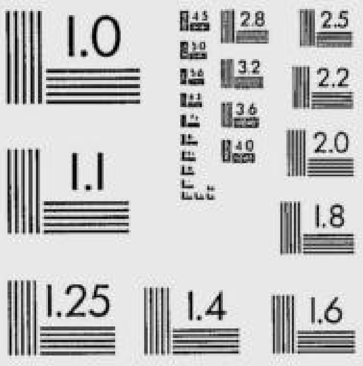
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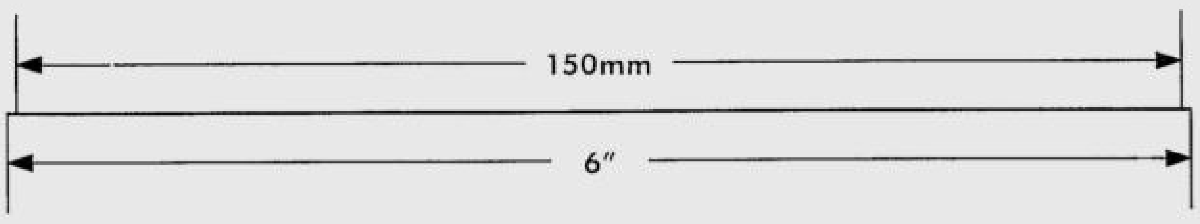

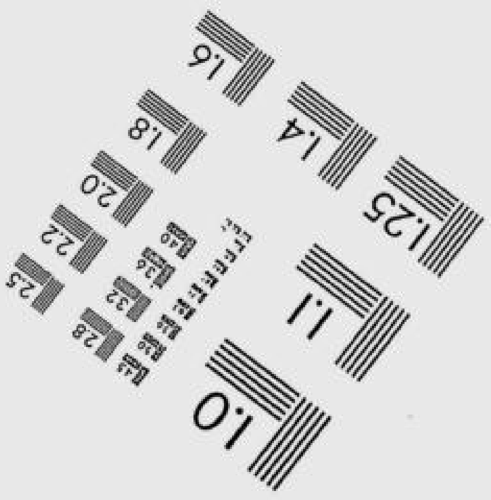
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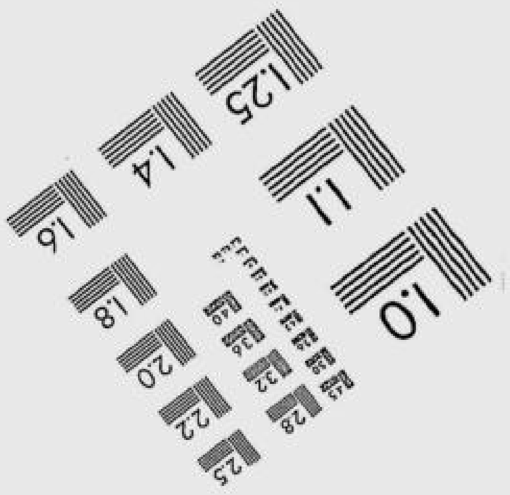
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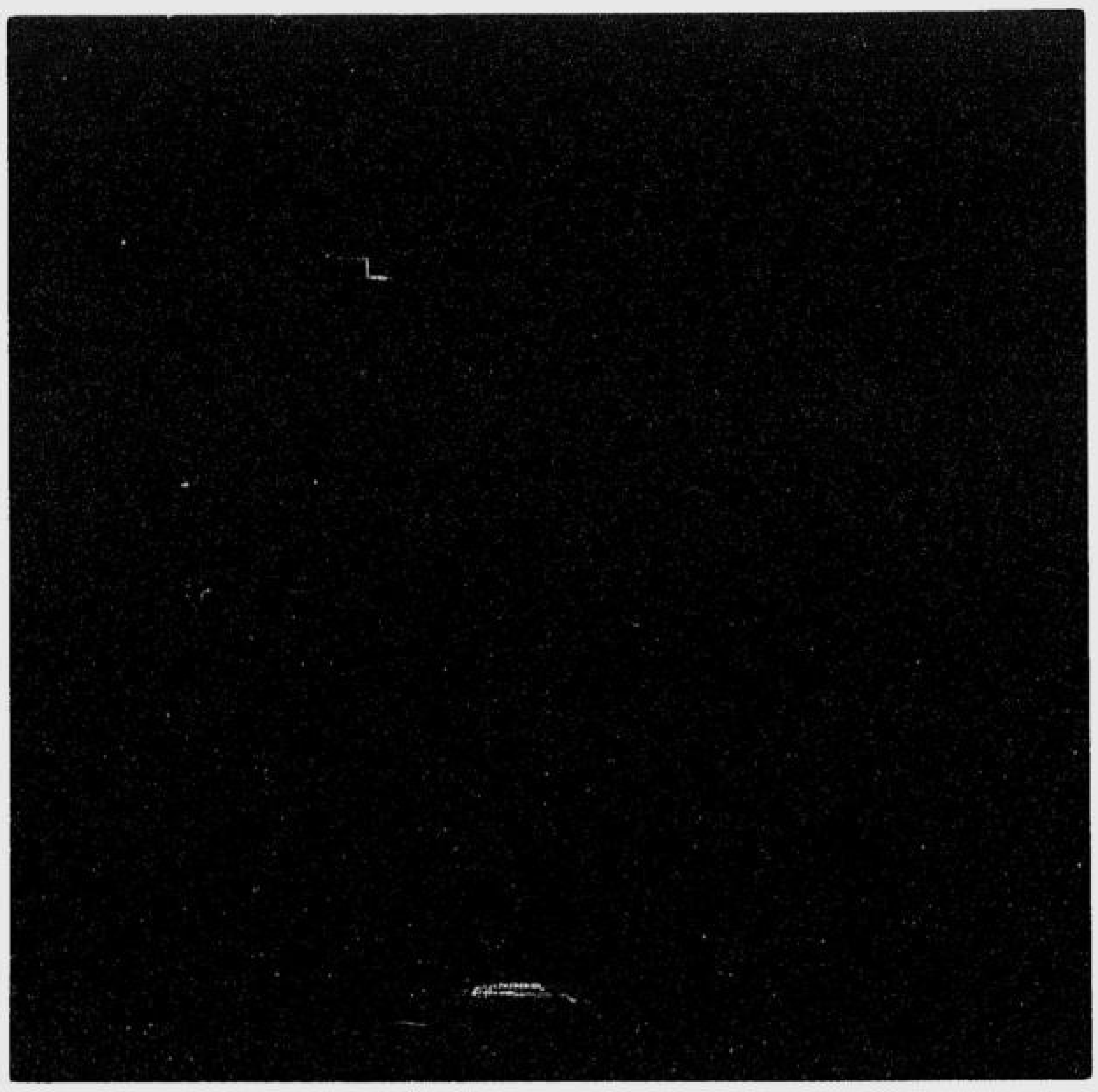

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